

# SOCCER

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**WEEKLY \$3.60**  
GST INCLUSIVE

## Lions - Queensland Champions Yet Again

**B**RISSBANE-based super Club, the Queensland Lions, in winning their Grand final last Saturday night at Perry Park continued the Club's unbelievable record of achievement.

Last year the Lions completed a historic and most remarkable record treble by winning the State League championship, Grand Final as well as the Queensland Cup.

Last Saturday evening this very same Club not only repeated this marvellous treble, but went one better when the Lions' Reserve as well as their Youth teams also won their respective Grand Finals.

The Lions' chief administrator Lawrence Oudendyk proudly stated to ABSW last Saturday night: "Our Club stands most proud in Australian Soccer. The Grand Final was a tough

game to end our spectacular season. Lions won everything available that was there to be won and our coaching staff spearheaded by Head Coach Miron Bleiberg have done a magnificent job," ended Mr Oudendyk.

from a direct free-kick that sent Pine Rivers into a 1-0 defeat at Brisbane's Perry Park.

Yet despite their magnificent achievements both on and off the pitch, this outstanding Club continues to be shockingly blocked from

**By John Economos**

record, administration, a booming Social Club, their own boutique stadium at Richlands plus own no less than three other State League Clubs — all remark-

*Yet Soccer Australia during the last off-season continued to deny the Lions NSL Status. Why?*

The Queenslanders in 1982 won the NSL Cup, hoisted themselves as State Premiers no less than 12 times, have won the

cially with monotonous regularity to stay alive, the Lions have accumulated real assets in excess of \$12million which include 20 acres of real estate, three soccer fields, eight air conditioned dressing rooms and their booming social club which



**Miron Bleiberg — Lions' ace coach.**

Miron Bleiberg commented to ABSW: "It was not easy but in the end proved good enough (the victory) to prove Lions has healthy foundations and always pointed in the right directions.

"I was not only happy for the first team but very happy for our reserves and youth teams winning their respective grand finals. That hugely added to the prestige of our club.

"Credit to the club as a whole the way it has been administered in a very progressive manner and now we find that the Lions have won no less than eight trophies in the last two seasons", ended the astute Bleiberg.

The Lions Reserve team also had a 1-0 win over Taringa Rovers whilst the Youth team annihilated Pine Rivers 4-0.



BACK ROW: F. Vinalves (Goalkeeper Coach), T. Ganter (Physio), G. Wilkins (Chairman QLD Lions), D. Corbett, D. Flaskas, J. Lowe, R. Davidson, J. Lowndes, W. Moon, D. Sime, J. Carbone, S. Drinkfield, J. McDiarmid (Stammer Massense), C. Hollis (Asst Coach)  
MIDDLE ROW: L. Farinazzo, C. Lovell, L. Drake, G. McMaster (Res Goalkeeper), J. Lucas (Goalkeeper), S. Falkenhagen (Res Goalkeeper), R. Tollenare, S. Curtis, L. Oudendyk (C.E.O QLD Lions)  
FRONT ROW: D. Vanna, T. Gava, N. Carlsson, G. Dilosa, M. Bleiberg (Coach), S. FitzSimmons, T. Hughes, D. Volker, N. Heron (Manager)

Lions roared into their Grand Final victory when ace-linkman Warren Moon nailed the target five minutes into the second session

participating in the National Soccer League.

*Why should this be so Mr Frank Lowy?*

The Lions have a playing

able achievements and assets that are unequalled by any other club in the National Soccer League.

Queensland Cup on four occasions whilst winning the Grand Final 10 times.

Whilst 12 of the 13 clubs in the NSL struggle finan-

boasts membership of almost 21,000.

And obviously, understandably elated and very astute Head Coach



**Lawrence Oudendyk — Lions' crack Administrator.**

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## CRESCENT CROWNED WINTER SUPER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

**S**ydney Crescent Star have rounded out their amazing season by winning the 2003 Winter Super League Grand Final 3-2 against Fraser Park Dragons in a thriller at Hadjuk Stadium today.

With little between the teams during the regular season and the finals series, a likely winner was difficult to pick prior to kick-off. From the opening whistle it was a torrid affair with neither side giving an inch. The scoring was opened in the 12th minute when Fraser Park's Mark Guerrierio met a cross from Manny Papageorgiou. Sydney Crescent Star's captain Yavus Ekinci leveled just before half time



**Sydney Crescent Star players celebrate their three-two victory over Fraser Park.**

with a volley from inside the penalty area. Shortly after the break, Fraser Park conceded a penalty via their goalkeeper, Steve Angelov, which was duly converted by the always reliable Angie Petratos. Fraser Park then leveled again in the 65th minute through their enigmatic play maker Tony Faria when he danced through two defenders to bury his left-foot shot.

But just when the 2,000-strong crowd were preparing themselves for extra time, Phil Marzec produced a late winner for Crescent Star when he darted in at the near post to slot a cross from Terry Atsas.

Full reports and stats on pages 19, 20 & 21.

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# aussiesabroad

BY DANIEL KUZIW

New news has filtered through the soccer circles in Italy that newly signed youngsters Nicholas Stavroulakis and Frank Lagana are doing really well with Empoli's Primavera squad.

The pair are gearing up for their first match in the Italia Super Coppa against Livorno this weekend.

More news on how the boys went on this will feature in the following weeks edition in ABSW.

Both pairs have settled in rather well in their new found side with the boys hoping to impress the Primavera coaches in gaining a first team spot next year.

Stavroulakis has signed a one year plus an option of another year while Lagana has signed a four-year deal.

The duo spent a good season at the AIS whereby the pair have stated that they were rather appreciative with the Institutes input in their game.

◆◆◆◆

The knives are out for Bad Boy Kevin Muscat after



Kevin Muscat: Another needless challenge saw the Millwall defender sent off in only his second game for the club.

he callously stomped on an opposing player that eventually lead to Millwall losing three-one to Watford.

His manager Mark McGhee made no attempt to defend Kevin Muscat after the defender's red card during their 3-1 defeat to Watford last weekend.

Muscat stamped on Danny Webber inside the box on the stroke of half-time, leading to his dismissal and a penalty which Neil Cox scored to give the Hornets at 2-1 lead. McGhee said to Teamtalk.com: "You talk about players with reputations and players that play a certain way, but as managers you always think you can improve on the last guy."

"I took Kevin to Wolves and I hoped that that relationship would help him understand how important it is to me that he doesn't do things like that and how badly he has let me down when he does do something like that."

"I feel very disappointed and I feel let down by Kevin. There was no danger and he was inside his own area. With one moment of crazy, crazy thinking, he has lost us the game."

"What player would risk giving a penalty away, never mind getting sent off? I'm speechless really."

In a similar vein Watford boss Ray Lewington believed Kevin Muscat's red card had been thoroughly deserved saying:

"He's a nice lad off the pitch. I didn't see the incident at the time, but I saw it on the TV and it was a sending off."

"He has a change of character when he gets on the pitch and he does daft things."

◆◆◆◆

Another player who went agaga this week has been branded by Gerard Houllier as a coward.

Houllier saw the usually tame Neill launch a scathing two-footed challenge on Jamie Carragher that resulted in a broken right leg that is likely to keep the Liverpool and England defender out until March.

Neill was banished by the referee, Neale Barry, after 13 minutes of Saturday's Premiership fixture at Ewood Park, in which Liverpool came from behind to beat Blackburn 3-1.

Houllier was initially restrained in his comments about the Australian's lunge but gave vent to his anger after an x-ray examination revealed the full extent of the injury.

"I said after the game that it was a tackle that could have resulted in a broken leg, and

sadly that is what has happened," the Liverpool manager told <http://sport.independent.co.uk>

"To me it was a coward's challenge and Neill's reaction was also appalling because he then complained about being sent off."

Houllier added: "I am gutted for Jamie. He won't be able to play for six months, yet Neill will be playing again in three matches. I can imagine what Graeme Souness would be saying if one of his players had a leg broken in a similar way."

◆◆◆◆

Bristol City boss Danny Wilson has told former Boro player Luke Wilkshire that he must make more of an impact in his side.

Last weekend Wilkshire was substituted after a quiet performance at Oldham in a disappointing 1-1 draw with Wilson refusing to use Wilkshire's midweek trip to Turkey with the Australian under-23 side as an excuse for the display of his £250,000 buy.

Wilson is usually quick to avoid criticism of his men. But he said to [www.thisisbristol.com](http://www.thisisbristol.com): "I felt during the first half he didn't contribute enough and I feel he can do a lot better than that."

"I think when he went into that hole behind (the centre forward Lee Miller) he got the ball quite a bit and I thought he could have created a bit more than he did."

"Having said that we were asking him to do a role he is not familiar with, but I still think he can do a lot more than he is doing at this moment in time."

"We are expecting him to pull things out of the bag for us at times and it's not always possible. People on the ball



need the options and we have slightly gone off that at the moment."

◆◆◆◆

Livingston have been handed a massive injury boost with the return to full training of club captain Stuart Lovell.

The 31-year-old has been out of action since sustaining medial ligament damage to his right knee in a pre-season friendly against Gretna.

The midfielder has been stepping up his training regime and finally joined in with the rest of his team-mates last week.

Coach Allan Preston was delighted to see the former Hibs man back in the fold and revealed that he could play a part in next week's under-21 clash with Kilmarnock.

He said: "Having Stuart back is a massive bonus for us. He is such a presence both on and off the field and as club captain his role is very important."

"He's had to be patient and work hard and now we'll look to get him back playing again."

"He'll maybe get 45 minutes against Kilmarnock next week and we'll see how it goes from there."

Lovell himself spoke of his progress and told the Daily Record: "The injury turned out

worse than I thought and it has been hard for me, totally frustrating."

"I missed five months last season because of a knee injury and could have done without this."

"I'm not sure when I will be playing, it can't come quickly enough. I might play in an Under-21 game next week, if not the following week."

"The good thing is that the coach has a few options in the midfield area and there is no question of me being forced back before I'm ready."

◆◆◆◆

Planetfootball.com report that Southend United have signed Australian goalkeeper Andy Petterson after he ended a brief spell with Second Division side Rushden & Diamonds.

The former Brighton &



Andy Petterson: The Aussie shot-stopper has joined Third Division side Southend United.

Hove Albion custodian was on non-contract terms at Nene Park following a trial earlier in the month with Brian Talbot's side.

Petterson made two appearances in the Diamonds' reserves and was on the bench in the club's last two league matches, backing up number one Billy Turley.

He has since decided to join The Shrimpers instead and try his luck with the Third Division outfit.

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Halifax Town boss Chris Wilder has confirmed that Aussie loanee Clint Davies will be staying at the Shay despite a goalkeeping crisis at Bradford City.

The Bantams are without the injured Alan Combe and Mark Paston but boss Nicky Laws has decided not to recall Davies from his season-long loan spell with the Nationwide Conference side.

"Clint has not been recalled by Bradford and will be in the squad for this weekend's game," Wilder told the Halifax Courier.

"Bradford have a recall clause in his loan deal with us should they suffer an injury crisis, but that has not happened."



Stuart Lovell: The Livingston captain has resumed full training after a lengthy lay-off through injury.

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# RON SMITH A HIT AT ANFIELD

Former AIS head coach Ron Smith has embarked on a major tour of English Premier League giants Liverpool as part of the clubs development and analysis program.

Being a guest for head Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier is certainly an outstanding honor for the former Johor coach who is currently reaping the benefits of scouring the heights of the famous English club.

"At the moment I am in Liverpool as a guest of Gerard Houllier's for one month. Life is hectic here and everybody is very busy, obviously doing their jobs. The staff have made me feel very welcome and so far I have been watching training and having some interesting discussions with the coaches at the club.

I spent a couple of hours with Sammy Lee

and other coaches going over some of the research I have done on Man Utd, Arsenal and Liverpool, which they were very interested in.

I have spoken briefly to Gerard a few times and hopefully I will be able to speak to him at some length later today. There is a match against Leicester tomorrow and then the team will be in Europe midweek.

The reserves played last Tuesday night at Chester against Leeds and it was a very good game. Quite a number of the first team players were on the park for both teams so it was a good quality match to watch.

Smith ended by saying that this opportunity has been one big fairytale ride and assertively answered to ABSW that, "what I can say is that I am loving every minute of it".



Ron Smith currently on the books at Liverpool as Gerard Houllier's special guest.

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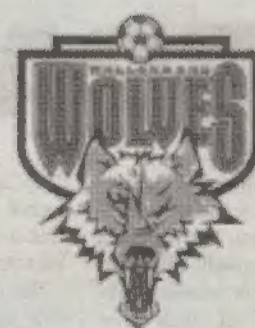
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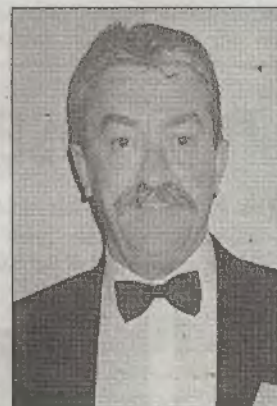
Nick Carle



Brendan Renaud



Stuart Young



John Turner  
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# BRESCIA FURNITURE

## Adelaide United gets Major Sponsor

The support for the Adelaide United Football Club continues to grow with hundreds of soccer mad fans registering their interest for the imminent National Soccer League season 2003/2004 and the club securing a major sponsorship from Bianco Building Supplies.

United's NSL season starts on Friday October 17 against Brisbane Strikers at Hindmarsh Stadium, 7.30pm kick-off.

The club has developed a range of corporate hospitality and signage packages. The demand from both the community and corporate sector has been so strong, that many of the corporate boxes and perimeter signage packages at Hindmarsh Stadium have already been snapped up.

Leading Adelaide building supplier and merchant and long standing supporter of all levels of soccer, Mr. Nick Bianco has signed up as major sponsor for the new club.

"Nick Bianco has once again shown his confidence and faith in South Australia's soccer public, by backing the Adelaide United Football Club with substantial sponsorship," club patron Mr. Gordon Pickard said.

The Bianco Building Supplies brand will be positioned on the back of the stylish strip of the Adelaide United Football Club.

"I have had dealings with Gordon Pickard for over 25 years, and I have every bit of confidence in his work. I will support the team because I too, like Gordon, believe we are starting something special for all passionate soccer fans in South Australia," Mr. Nick Bianco said.

"Bianco Building Supplies' association

with the Adelaide United Football Club is only the beginning of what we hope will be significant support for the club from South Australian corporates," President Mr. Basil Scarsella said.

The Club has appointed Angelo Picca as the Marketing Manager to manage services to the corporates and to handle the promotion, media and publicity for the newly born South Australian club.

"Angelo has made a great contribution during the start up stages of the Adelaide United Football Club and we are delighted to appoint him in a very important role," Mr. Scarsella said.



Website Coming Soon



Basil Scarsella is relishing his new role as President of new club Adelaide United.

## NSL limps on with one eye on future

The ailing National Soccer League limped into another year last week in a holding pattern but it's almost certain to be the last in its current format.

Australia's first national sporting league is showing its age, creaking under structural, financial and credibility issues that won't go away.

But the long-promised, never-delivered ground-up revolution the NSL so desperately needs looks certain to happen next year.

And that means the 13 clubs trundling around in an increasingly anonymous league are playing for their lives, with an elite 10-team franchise-based competition looming in late 2004.

The revival of the FIFA World Club Championship in 2005, will provide the cash cow that struggling Australian clubs are so desperate for.

Asia is also considering allowing an Oceania representative - most likely this year's NSL champion - into the planned Asian Champions' League.

"These are exciting developments and potentially fantastic opportunities for our clubs to compete on the international stage," says NSL general manager Stefan Kamasz.

"An enhanced level of competition with other nations, in particular with our Asian neighbours, is clearly the way of the future."

However, empty promises of making a quid have irreparably damaged Australian club soccer before and

already some have said "enough" to throwing cash into the NSL money pit.

Last year's grand finalist Olympic Sharks lost wealthy benefactor Nick Politis in the off-season.

The club has gone back to basics as Sydney Olympic, operating on a vastly reduced budget as will most clubs in the league this season.

Gone for good is a foundation club - the increasingly unloved Adelaide City Force which found its financial plug pulled two weeks before the start of the season.



Action from last year's National League campaign between Olympic's Andy Packer and Ahmad Elrich of the Power.

In its place is Adelaide United, a hastily arranged South Australian Soccer Federation backed entity which will start the season three weeks late as it tries to sign enough players to field a team. Also gone for good is the much-maligned Swiss finals system which

dragged on interminably last year.

This season's NSL reverts to a traditional top six finals system, with last season's champion Perth Glory and a new-look Parramatta Power title favourites.

The Glory is the league's benchmark for off-field success and finally matched that on-field last season with a deserved grand final victory.

But despite cutting its player budget by 20 per cent and being put up for sale by owner Parramatta Leagues Club, the Power has recruited the NSL's strongest squad.

Former Socceroos Ante Milicic and Simon Colosimo and 2001-02 NSL player of the year Fernando Rech head a list of quality signings at coach Nick Theodorakopoulos' disposal.

Standard-wise, the NSL looks the strongest it's been in years.

There has been a reversal of the trend of NSL players quitting for overseas, with Socceroo Shaun Murphy (Perth Glory), Nick Carle (Marconi) and Michael Curcija (South Melbourne) leading the home-coming.

Overseas players are also coming to the NSL. The Football Kingz have signed two Norwegians and have linked up with English giant Chelsea in a move the Kiwis hope will give them two Blues players on loan this season.

Perhaps the most intriguing thing about this season's NSL will be just how many of the 13 clubs which kick off on Friday are around to see in the new dawn promised in 2004-05.

## SPIRIT UNVEIL NEW BRAND AND LOGO

Following extensive research and consultation, the Northern Spirit Football Club was delighted to announce the unveiling of their new brand and logo for the 2003/2004 National Soccer League (NSL) Season.

The new Spirit logo will be used on all Club properties for the start of the

2003/2004 Season had its formal unveiling at the Club's first home match at Pittwater Park last Sunday.

The decision to create a new logo was driven by many of the changes that the Club has implemented during the NSL off-season. While the Spirit playing roster has remained virtually unchanged since last season,

many core areas of the Club have been through an evaluation and modification process.

The new brand image signifies an invitation to a new era for the Northern Spirit. The Club has a key objective of embracing the future and moving forward to create a successful and viable team both on and off the playing

field. With a new home ground, new initiatives and ventures such as the 'Spirit Sevens' competition, it is the ideal time for the Club to launch a new identity.

Prior to the re-design process, Spirit consulted a cross-section of fans, supporters and stakeholders to ascertain their views on the Club's values.

The resulting new logo is a powerful reflection of the Spirit's core brand values: It has a clear personality and characteristics.

Our new logo will allow these interest groups to identify with the Spirit and will build an emotional connection between the community and their Spirit team.

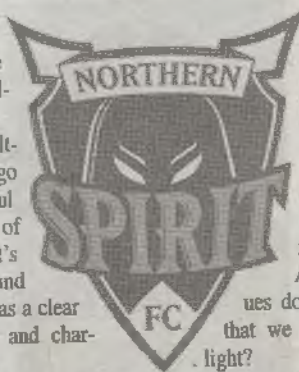
This process was a primary focus for Spirit's Chairman, Mr. Antonio Gelonesi, as he strongly

believes that the Club's stakeholders and fans had to have a brand that reflected who they are and what Northern Spirit means to them. He said:

"We evaluated the brand that was Northern Spirit and went through a process where we

sourced both internal and external opinions on three main questions. Who is Spirit? What does Spirit represent? And, what values does Spirit have that we need to highlight?"

"This new logo and brand is the end result of those investigations and, like the brand's tag line of 'Bring It On', at Spirit we're all very excited about the new way we are expressing who we are and who we want to be in the future."



## Kingz lose major sponsor

THE Football Kingz have lost their major naming right sponsor just days after the start of the NSL season.

Mobile phone company Vodafone, which has backed the Auckland-based club for the past four years, will not renew the present contract which ends on September 30.

The company, which had its name emblazoned on the front of the Kingz' jersey, will continue as the club's "exclusive telecommunications sponsor" but with its name now on the players' shorts.

Former club owner and current 40 percent

shareholder Sky Television will be the team's "principal shirt sponsor" but not the naming right sponsor.

"We are still talking to three parties with a view of securing a major sponsor," Kingz board chairman Chris Turner said last week.

"We have known for some time Vodafone would not be continuing at the same level. We are pleased they will continue their association with the club."

It is thought Vodafone's support amounted to about \$A500,000 per season.

In a further hiccup, the club must now find a new airline partner.



## WA to recognise Top 100 Players

By Richard Kreider

An exciting project has been launched to pay tribute to Western Australian soccer's best 100 players from the first century of WA State team games.

The WA Soccer Hall of Fame Committee is undertaking the mammoth task of compiling the list and a gala event will be held next year to honour those chosen in the Top 100.

The public is also being invited to play a part by making submissions to the Committee on the players (male or female) who they consider have made the greatest impact on the WA soccer scene. They can put forward the names of their favourites (it can be one or 20, or even more) but the nominees must fulfil a certain criteria.

These guidelines are they must have played for the WA State team at representative level and must have lived in WA for at least three years.

The qualifying years are from 1902 to 2002 - the period which celebrates a century of WA State team participation. A comprehensive publica-

tion, highlighting the history of soccer in WA as well as the careers of the Top 100 players, will be produced to mark what promises to be a milestone occasion.

This project to honour the Top 100 players will be a pacesetter venture by the WA Soccer Hall of Fame Committee. No other State, or even Soccer Australia, has attempted such a formidable task, which involves painstaking research.

It is then proposed a 'WA Team of the Century' be chosen from the 100 names selected. WA was the first State in Australia to set up a Soccer Hall of Fame when 46 inductees were named in 1996. Since then, a further 25 have had their achievements recognised by the Hall of Fame in 2002.

Nominations for the Top 100 can be emailed to scriberoo@inet.net.au

Or they can be posted to Soccer Hall of Fame, PO Box 444, Cloverdale, WA6105. Submissions must be received by October 30.

(Richard Kreider is a committee member of the WA Soccer Hall of Fame)

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## Match of the week

# Power starts season with 0-0 draw against South Melbourne

**Parramatta Power 0  
South Melbourne 0**

By Dave Mason

**P**arramatta Power recruit Simon Colosimo lived up to his reputation as one of the best players in Australia with a masterful display as the Power started its 2003/04 campaign with a 0-0 draw against a plucky South Melbourne at Parramatta Stadium.

The former Socceroo midfielder was in everything for the Power as he combined well with Andre Gumprecht to dominate proceedings in the middle of the pitch.

Parramatta Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos put his faith in the new brigade with six players, including Colosimo, making their club debuts from the opening whistle.

Power's season almost got off to a terrible start when Vaughan Coveny got a sight of goal in the 3rd minute but he shot wide from the edge of the 18-yard box.

It was then one of the Power debutantes who has the home side's first chance in the 10th minute when

Colosimo disposed the South Melbourne defence, beat one defender and then watched his delicate chip sail inches over the crossbar.

Two minutes later Colosimo went even closer to his first goal in Power colours when he rattled the crossbar with a thumping volley after once again strolling through the heart of the South Melbourne defence.

The newly-formed Power attacking machine took little time to find its feet with Ante Milicic, Johnny Buonavoglia and Andre Gumprecht linking up to give Ahmad Elrich a shot on goal, which was well blocked by Mehmet Durakovic.

From the corner Alvin Ceccoli headed just wide with Power well and truly on the offensive.

Fernando Rech then blasted over the bar in the 18th minute as Power was tearing South Melbourne apart through the middle of the field.

South Melbourne started to work its way back into the game but any moves forward were well defused by the Power defence and goalkeeper Clint Bolton who was tidy but not stretched.

South Melbourne was soon on edge again in the 24th minute when Milicic forced a diving save from South Melbourne goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic.

The best chance of the first half fell to Buonavoglia in the 37th minute when a Ceccoli cross found the striker unmarked but he could not control the ball with the goal at his mercy.

Bolton then came to the Power's rescue with a spectacular double save in the 44th minute when Con Boutsianis was again through on goal in what was the last chance before the half time break.

The second half started with both sides desperately trying to get the upper hand and chances fell at either end in an intriguing period after the break.

Parramatta looked to have grabbed the game-breaking goal in the 56th minute when Elrich broke free but his cross to the far post was just out of the reach of Milicic, who had made a smart run to lose his defender.

The attacking intentions of the two sides opened the

game up dramatically in the second half but neither team could carve open the opening to secure the first goal of the game.

Milicic sent a scare through the Power camp when he pulled up with a groin injury in the 64th minute and he was immediately replaced by Travis Dodd, who became the 7th player to make his debut for the club.

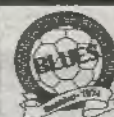
Bolton made another great save in the 72nd minute when he denied Coveny as Parramatta's defence started to look scratchy.

Three minutes later Power had an ideal chance when a Colosimo corner was flicked on by Elrich, only for a desperate South Melbourne defence to scramble the ball to safety.

Theodorakopoulos then made his first tactical switch by introducing Peter Zorbas into the game for Buonavoglia with Rech pushed forward into an attacking role.

After teasing the South Melbourne side with some delicate passing, Colosimo unleashed a powerful 30m drive in the 79th minute which hit the outside of the post with Galekovic well beaten. Colosimo deserved better as he was outstanding in his Power debut.

The last chance of the match came in the 89th minute when an Elrich cross found Dodd but his shot went over the bar under pressure from two South Melbourne defenders.



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# National Soccer League



	<b>Melbourne Knights</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Marconi</b>	<b>1</b>

## Knights held by Stallions

by Alan Clark

**M**elbourne Knights and Marconi Stallions played out an entertaining one-all draw at Knights Stadium in warm conditions on Sunday afternoon.

Stallions captain Brad Maloney opened the scoring just before the half-hour mark for the visitors, but Knights levelled through Ante Pelikan immediately after the interval.

Knights had the greater number of opportunities throughout the match, but both sides had their opportunities to take all three points, without adding to the scoreline.

"I think on the chances we created, it was two points dropped," said Knights' coach Ian Dobson after the game. "There were a number of chances from set play in the first twenty minutes that we should have done better in finishing."

"We're disappointed that we didn't come up with the three points. But I'm not disappointed with the performance."

"At the end of the day, we're very happy with one point," said Marconi coach Jean-Paul de Marigny. "I think the boys worked extremely hard. Coming here is always difficult, and we're very

(happy) with the one point."

Stallions' goalkeeper Michael Turnbull was to have a spectacular tenminutes on the park, making a high-class save before needing to leave the pitch with concussion after a collision with a team-mate.

In the opening minutes of the contest Turnbull made a diving save low to his right to keep out a goal-bound header from Steve Pantelidis who got on the end of an Andy Vargas free-kick floated in to the edge of the 18 yard line.

"How he got (to) it was incredible," said an appreciative de Marigny. "It was brilliant."

It was Turnbull's last action in the game as he had to leave the field shortly afterwards following the later clash which left him disoriented.

"He's in hospital at the moment because he's concussed," said de Marigny.

"It's not too major because I spoke with him at half-time, and he seemed to be making a bit of sense, even for a goalkeeper."

Stacy Alogdellis took over and was soon tested by constant Knights' pressure which laid his goal under siege and led to a series of corners and free-kicks in dangerous positions.

Kovacic required the best from Alogdellis when he was found from an Andy Vargas free-kick struck low into the box. The replacement goalkeeper was able to divert the volley over the bar.

Andy Vargas was already showing his influence on the match, and his re-energised return to Somers Street augurs well for the Knights' faithful. Coach Dobson had taken Vargas to VSF Premier League side Green Gully after a spotty season with the Knights, and following his appointment as coach at Knights, promptly brought him back.

"We've worked with Andy for twelve months at Green Gully and looked at his mental state. That (has paid off) and that is the best I've seen him play."

"Andy did everything today. He was a playmaker, he tackled, he looked very good on the ball, he tracked back on players and he created a lot of danger from set plays," he said.

But just when it seemed Vargas would urge Knights into dominance, Marconi took the lead.

Marconi's own Knights' old-boy Joe Spiteri was ensuring he could also influence the game. Spiteri wriggled to the goal-line, then sent a text-book cut-back to the penalty-spot where Maloney gleefully volleyed home into the top right corner of the net.

"He's a leader," said de Marigny of Maloney. "He works extremely hard and he's got a heap of pride in his ability. It's good to have him back."

No sooner had the second-half begun than Knights were level. An otherwise harmless cross from wide on the right bypassed the Stallions' defenders allowing Fa'arodo took advantage, spinning outside before sending in a low shot. Alogdellis made a blocking save, but the ball spilled. In a ruck of players each scrambling for possession, Pelikan finally managed the touch that sent the ball over the line.

"Stacey is obviously a bit down on



Anthony Pelikan: Melbourne Knights star scored the equalizing goal for the Reds one-all draw with the Stallions.

himself," said de Marigny. "It was a cheap goal (to concede)."

Alogdellis came to Stallions' aid shortly afterwards when Fa'arodo burst through an attempt at off-side and sprinted towards an otherwise unmarked goal. Fa'arodo run took him to the right of the goal, but Alogdellis had calculated his angles correctly and was able to grab Fa'arodo's right-foot attempt.

Luke Casserley had a shot that cannoned off the bar, then Bill Natsioulas scuffed a shot wide when in a promising position in fitful Stallions' attacks.

New signings Serkan Oksuz and Adrian Leijer had chances within seconds of each other after coming on as late substitutes. Oksuz had a looping header which Alogdellis only just reached to touch over the bar scrambling backwards. From the resultant corner, Leijer got his head to the ball, but insufficiently strongly enough to make a profitable connection.

"I think we'll only get better," said Dobson. "We're a very fit team at the moment."

	<b>Football Knights</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Newcastle United</b>	<b>2</b>

## Newcastle win in Auckland

**N**EW-LOOK Newcastle got their NSL season off to a useful start with a 2-1 win over the Football Kingz in Auckland last Sunday afternoon.

Coach Ian Crook's team was able to sit back and protect its lead after going 2-0 up inside half an hour with goals to Fijian striker Esali Masi and Jobe Wheelhouse.

The Kingz had a handful of half chances to Darren Young, Mark Beldham and Paul Seaman in the second half but had to wait until the 89th minute to score when substitute Harry Ngata cleverly hooked a loose ball home with an overhead kick.

Newcastle has gone into the season without 10 of the players who helped it to sixth place last season but Crook has some talented youngsters and was satisfied with what he saw.

"I was pleased with the overall team performance," Crook said.

"But full credit to the Kingz. They kept coming at us. When you do have a lead like that you tend to drop deeper and deeper to protect what you have got."

"The youngsters in our midfield will have learned a hell of a lot today."

"It's a tough place to come to and get a result."

The Kingz underwent an even bigger off-season overhaul than Newcastle after a lame 11th placing last year, with the club going part-time and slashing its budget.

Coach Ken Dugdale put on a brave face after the opening loss, saying the performance was not too bad considering a soft pre-season program and administrative wrangling which meant Norwegian import Aleksander Midtsian was not cleared to play.

The Kingz began confidently but soon slipped into the bad habits which had cost them dearly in recent seasons.

Australian John Tambouras looked reasonably comfortable at the back and when he is joined by the injured Mauro Donoso and Espen Schjerven, who didn't

play after arriving from Norway only last Friday, the team's defence may be more assured.

A mix-up between Tambouras and



Jobe Wheelhouse: Young Newcastle midfielder notched up his side's winner in their two-one victory over the Kingz.

Jason Rowley allowed Masi to open the scoring in the 18th minute.

Tambouras chested the ball down to Greg Owens, who played it back into the path of Masi, who gave goalkeeper Michael Utting no chance.

Newcastle increased their lead 11 minutes later when Wheelhouse provided the final touch to a near-post scramble after the Kingz failed to clear a free kick.

"It wasn't easy," Dugdale said.

"We have a squad of 23 but for one reason or another seven weren't able to play. That gave the youngsters the chance to see what football at this level is about."

"They quickly learned that Newcastle were a decent step up from the teams they had come up against in pre-season. Their decision-making processes weren't quick enough."

For the 2304 fans who attended the Kingz' opening league match of the season, there was an air of inevitability about the result because of the changes off and on the field Dugdale has faced.

The Kingz must quickly regroup, find some form and hope they can pick up points on two difficult away trips against Sydney United and Parramatta Power before they meet defending champions Perth Glory in Auckland in a fortnight.

Source - AAP.

## BYE - PERTH GLORY



# National Soccer League



**Northern Spirit**

**1**



**Brisbane Strikers**

**3**

by Joe Russo

It wasn't the beginning Northern Spirit were after as they were beaten by Brisbane Strikers at their new venue of Pittwater Park on Sydney's Northern beaches in front of a nice little crowd of 2,971.

The Strikers were clearly the better side throughout the game and it was Luke Morley, a youngster making his NSL debut, having last played in the Queensland State League for Taringa Rovers, who stole the show with two goals in the first half.

After the match Assistant Strikers coach, Luciano Trani, was keen to emphasize how proud all of Queensland should be of this team.

"We have had a delayed start to the whole operations but the boys have really come up well. We only had eight players seven weeks ago and now we have a squad of 20," he said.

"A lot of credit must go to the local boys of Queensland. We wanted this side to be as Queensland as possible and for the fans to appreciate that it is their team."

Northern Spirit's coach Lawrie McKinna was also taking nothing away from the opposition and was very frank as usual in his assessment of his own team.

"I thought that they adapted to the con-

ditions of the field a bit better and they looked hungrier and sharper than us," he said.

"I didn't think in the first half that we competed that well and credit goes to Brisbane because they played some nice one touch football.

"In the second half we had two or three really good chances and we were back in the game then we conceded that third goal. Overall, we didn't deserve to win."

Brisbane Strikers had a good chance early on when Joshua Rose forced goalkeeper Paul Henderson into a fantastic diving save to turn the ball away for a corner.

It was Morley who opened the scoring in the 14th minute of play when he was able to get on the end of some nice work from Rose.

Shane Stefanutto, arguably the player of the match, turned provider for Steve Fitzsimmons but somehow his header was scraped away by Henderson and defender Vuko Tomasevic.

In the 27th minute Spirit's only real chance of the first half fell to John Hutchinson but Karl Dodd was able to intervene and knock his shot away for a corner.

Brisbane doubled their scoring in the 45th minute; a Stefanutto cross was beautifully met by Morley and the visitors went into the break with a well deserved

two-goal lead.

Northern Spirit struck back in the 53rd minute thanks to Hutchinson who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

After a ferocious drive from Stewart Petrie that stung the hands of goalkeeper Jason Kearton, Hutchinson had the easy task of putting the rebound in the back of the net.

Four minutes later it was substitute Adam Kwasnik's cross that dangerously floated across the Strikers' goal but no Northern Spirit player was able to latch on to the end of it.

In the 59th minute Kearton pulled off the save of the game. The former Everton keeper somehow managed to keep out, and turn the ball way for a corner, a goal-bound shot from Petrie.

However, in the 61st minute Brisbane scored their third goal and they must thank veteran defender Ian Ferguson. It wasn't Ferguson's night overall and on this occasion he easily conceded the ball to Rose who duly punished Spirit by putting the ball in the back of the net with a clinical finish.

Not much happened after that as the Strikers regained their confidence in the last 25 minutes or so and Spirit retracted into their first half shell.

However, the relatively young Northern Spirit side showed enough glimpses of what they can do and it is now a matter of putting it all together more consistently.



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	18.10.03	1-3PM
U14 PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE	14/21/24.10.03	6-8PM
	18.10.03	1-3PM
U15 PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE	14/16/21/23.10.03	6-8PM
U16 PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE	13/16/20/23.10.03	6-8PM
U18 PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE	13/15/20/22.10.03	6-8PM
U12 GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE	28.10.03 & 4.11.03	6-8PM
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**Wollongong Wolves**

**0**



**Sydney United**

**1**

### First points for Lee and United

THE kick-off to the new NSL season began much like the old one ended for former champions Wollongong as they crashed to Sydney United at WIN Stadium in Wollongong.

Last season's wooden spooners were desperate for a positive start to the new campaign but although they dominated possession and territory it amounted to nothing.

Wolves striker Tanju Balabanel almost equalised in injury time but his shot struck the crossbar, summing up Wollongong's disappointing night.

To add salt to Wollongong's wounds, one of six former Wolves in United's starting side - defender Joe Vrkic - scored the winner from the penalty spot on 19 minutes.

Wollongong defender Bobby Dragas, making his NSL debut, needlessly jumped over the back of United striker Sean Babić to win a header and referee Matthew Breeze immediately awarded a penalty which Vrkic converted with ease.

Forty-five seconds later, midfielder Dean Heffernan should have given the visitors a 2-0 lead but somehow headed over the bar unopposed from just four metres out.

Apart from those two incidents, the match was virtually all Wollongong.

Defender Michael Hawrysiuc wasted two excel-



Joe Vrkic opened this season's goal scoring account with a well-taken penalty to earn the Wolves a one-nil victory over Sydney United.

lent first half chances while wing-back Shane Lyons also had a great double chance in first half injury time.

His stinging shot was blocked by new United keeper Liam Reddy but from the follow-up Lyons could only blast over the bar.

In the second half Wollongong poured on the pressure and thought it had snatched an equaliser but Balabanel couldn't quite squeeze his left foot shot past Reddy.

In another worrying sign for Wollongong, only 2346 fans turned up for the opening game.

Reports new Soccer Australia boss Frank Lowy would attend the match proved unfounded.

It marked the first game in charge for coaches John Turner (Wollongong) and Grant Lee (Sydney United).

Lee was obviously the happier of the pair, praising his side's commitment.

"The positive for us is that we worked hard and toughed it out," he said.

"Probably last season, this is a game we would have drawn or maybe even lost."

Turner, meanwhile, was disappointed with his side's finishing.

"If you don't put the ball in the net at this level, it comes back to haunt you," he said.

"My gut feeling is if we'd have got one in the net, it may have been a different game."

Turner had no dispute with the penalty decision against his giant defender Dragas.

"In my opinion it was a penalty. But having said that it always looks more clumsy when it's a big man going in against a little man."

"Still it was a hell of a way to lose it."

In a lively match in which both teams toiled hard, Balabanel and midfielder Nahuel Arrarte stood out for Wollongong while

young defender Michael Santalab and midfielder David Huxley had solid games for the visitors.

Source - AAP Report



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# Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

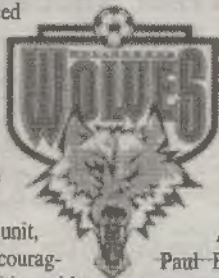
## NEW WOLVES INTRODUCED —

At a civic reception at the Wollongong Townhall — now the City Gallery — the new Wolves team was presented to Lord Mayor Alex Darling. It was an important public relation exercise attended by many local soccer club representatives, the Media and TV plus Wolves fans.

New coach John Turner and club captain Stuart Young introduced the newcomers to Wollongong's NSL team, both enthusiastic praising the commitment of the new recruits. Admitting it could take some time for the newly assembled squad to grow into a well performing unit, the spirit expressed was encouraging to listen to. All are awaiting with great anticipation the start of the 2003/2004 competition.

The Lord Mayor wished the Wolves good luck as the third national team representing the City of Wollongong with honour having already twice achieved national championships in recent years.

Wolves chairman Doug Symes sounded confident of a successful soccer season despite having to rebuild and fielding a rejuvenated side with a number of young talents and first timers playing in NSL soccer league.



## WOLVES U17'S TITLE CHASE —

Surviving a tough soccer season just completed the youngsters will be defending their 2002 Championship title playing at Gabbie Stadium Blacktown against Newcastle aiming to achieve a second Grand Final win.

The team finished one point behind minor premier Newcastle and face them again. Tony Page the coach and manager Terry Lackenby are both very proud of the boys. Five of the players were rewarded with selection into the 2004 NSL Wolves Youth team, two players made the NSW U16's Country State side and one made the U16's NSW State team.

The squad is Zayd Alexander, Michael Andrews, Paul Blitz, Blake Coates, Tynan Diaz, Tayfan Girgin, Dominic Manca, Daniel Miladinski, Justin Potter, Michael Robinson, Paul Ryrie, Leo Quinones, Jarryd Vinton, Ruben Zadkovich, Tommy Zizic — all originate from local Illawarra junior soccer clubs.

## GRAND FINALS 4 LEFT STANDING —

After a long hard soccer season — March to September — 2 in Premier League and 2 in Conference League proved most resistant, competing well in the competition proper then surviving

the sudden-death play-offs.

To celebrate a Grand Final win are now left standing:

In Conference League to contest the ultimate championship on Sunday 21/9 are University and Woonona, not the predicted finalists. The more fancied clubs, minor premier Bulli and 2nd placed Warilla Wanderers were both eliminated round one and two of the play-offs.

Woonona finished 3rd in the competition and even though losing the first game in the Preliminary Final against Bulli by the odd goal, came back strong to defeat Shoalhaven City 3:2 in extra time with a 'golden' goal and Highlands United 4:2 in convincing style with a burst of 2 goals in as many minutes to 'blitz' their opponent. Against all odds Woonona takes one spot in the annual Grand Final.

University in 5th place on the competition table was secretly tipped by insiders to do well — on their day the students surprise any opponent. They reversed a competition defeat against Shellharbour City into a 2:0 win then won 2:1 against 2nd placed Warilla Wanderers and surprised competition winner Bulli 2:0 to book their place in the end-of-season highlight.

The two contestants did only meet once this year and drew 2:2. It is impossible to tip a winner in what is expected to be an entertaining match of two equal sides.

# ACT WRAP

By Graham Cooke

## Canberra Deakin .....6 Gungahlin Juventus .....0

Canberra Deakin won this ACT Premiership preliminary final at a stroll to put themselves in the best frame of mind for a re-match against Canberra Olympic in the grand final on Sunday.

Games between the two oldest clubs in the competition have rarely lacked bite, but on this occasion Juventus never provided serious opposition for the league champions, conceding gift goals early on, then collapsing as the score against them mounted.

Deakin, on the other hand, looked every inch the team that had been unbeaten in the competition until a week ago, and will surely provide better opposition next week than their meek 4-0 surrender to Olympic in the major semi-final.

They do have injury concerns, Ante Ruskan and Michael Spaleta both picked up knocks in the final minutes and coach Miro Trunic will have an anxious wait during the week to see how they respond to treatment.

Deakin's first goal can be laid firmly at the door of the Juventus defence, Ruskan sneaking in unnoticed at the far post to strike a Scott Conlon corner home from close range. Michael Katz made it 2-0 before half time and Juventus were clinging to the match by their fingertips.

Zvonko Usljebrka killed off the game as a contest with a 49th minute strike; Conlon scored from the penalty spot after Neil Stoddart had brought down Carl Pideski, then Conlon got his second in a repeat of Juventus' mistake with the opener, coming in unchal-

lenged at the far post from a corner.

Finally it was Usljebrka, making light of the fact that injuries meant Deakin were now playing with nine men, running past defenders just wishing the match would end, to round off the rout.

"When we get beat we get beat well," was coach Ian Heywood's initial comment. "We copped six in the second game of the season against Olympic."

"But having said that, we played 26 games this season and lost four — and we won the Federation Cup — so we should put everything in perspective."

"We had both our strikers, Steve Lazzari and George Cattnach, carrying hamstring injuries going into this game, but that's no excuse for giving away silly goals. The two from corners were signposted."

Trunic said the comeback from the previous week's beating by Olympic showed the team had character and spirit.

"They are also one of the fittest squads in the league," he said. "We won't be doing anything special during the week, apart from some tactical sessions; the side's the best it can be."

**CANBERRA DEAKIN:** Bangweni, Ruskan, Milin (Perokovic 74), Ison, Katz (La Butte 66), Conlon, Exposito, Spaleta, Usljebrka, Pideski, Lee (Mehr 77).  
**GUNGALIN JUVENTUS:** Denham, Schroder, O. Zamora, Behr (Howarth 57), Y. Zamora, Munoz (Belcher 70), Harbin, Glass, Stoddart, Lazzari, Cattnach (Sredojevic 70).  
**Referee:** Ben Wilson.

# Gelonesi clears the air



Northern Spirit chairman Antonio Gelonesi.

By Joe Russo

On Sunday Night Soccer on radio 98.5 FM recently Northern Spirit Chairman, Antonio Gelonesi, discussed the recent financial dramas at the club, the move to Pittwater Park and his expectation for season 2003/04.

Here is an edited extract from that interview.

Reports in the media recently have claimed that Northern Spirit hasn't paid a \$250,000 fee to Soccer Australia. What is the background to this story?

As a team we certainly have a responsibility to ensure that everything that we need to do contractually is done.

The \$250,000 payment was through a change in ownership that needed to be executed when I took over the club from Rangers.

It is fair to say that there are still some legal issues that we are resolving surrounding that [the payment]. The important thing for everyone to know is that communication with Soccer Australia continues and there are no secrets about what is going on.

I have refrained from talking about it

too much. My goal is to leave soccer unblemished. Our obligation will be met as soon as we're advised that we are ready to proceed.

South Melbourne have implied that they may have been able to stop the final series last year. Was there ever any chance of that happening?

Well I am disappointed that it has taken until now for all these things to come about.

I respect South Melbourne, they are a good team and they are looking particularly good this year.

We won enough games [last season] and had a fantastic end of season run which enabled us to make the finals. We have a young team and they flourished very nicely and the way I looked at the ladder they were enough points ahead of South Melbourne.

At the meetings we had with the people from all clubs that issue was never raised.

A number of people asked questions, we answered those questions and we are a bit disappointed that it takes until now for these things to come about.

To be perfectly honest that's fine. We are not intimidated by anyone's remarks about what we have done and how we have done it.

Last year was a consolidation year for us and we brought a lot of young kids through the ranks. We were very very proud of their commitment going into the finals.

What can we expect of Northern Spirit this year?

I have been really impressed at the maturity the boys have shown. They have only arrived back from China and they actually learnt a lot playing in front of crowds of between 15 000 and 25 000 people.

This season the players are one year older and with the signing of Wayne

O'Sullivan from Parramatta Power, who [together] with a bunch of guys who are very keen to impress, we are setting our goal to finish even higher than last season.

As you know anything is possible in football and if the team gets on a winning roll then anything can happen. Watch out!

Why have you moved to Pittwater Park from North Sydney Oval?

North Sydney Oval was a great facility but it has a cricket pitch in the middle. It's a bit hard and if cricket is on soon after and it's a bit wet, then you get some funny bounces.

We trialled Brookvale Oval for a few matches last year and we were hoping that lights would be installed there but they weren't. So then Pittwater Park came up.

I have been completely overwhelmed by the way Pittwater Council, their administration staff and the ground staff have welcomed us there.

It is a great pitch, the stand will be comfortable and it will be a very intimate soccer ground. I remember reading from the PFA model that one of the pillars for success would be for a team to be in a very intimate environment.

Northern Spirit was seen as a corporate type of team operating out of North Sydney. If you didn't play on a Friday night then you wouldn't get much of a crowd.

Pittwater is a very central area for our demographic. We have three associations in Manly-Warringah, Kuringai and Gladesville-Hornsby and Pittwater is within easy access for all three. Our responsibility is to make sure that they are catered for.

All of these things made it a fairly easy decision for us to go to Pittwater. It is on the expectation that we can build a community.

[Sunday Night Soccer can heard on 98.5 FM in Sydney at 10.00pm on Sunday nights]

# News From The NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Graham Cooke

While Australian soccer had been plagued by a succession of fly-by-nights who had fiddled with the game then walked away, some things remained the same, former Soccerroo captain and commentator Johnny Warren said in Canberra.

Launching Canberra Deakin's second season in the National Youth League, Warren said that throughout almost three decades of turbulence Deakin was one club that had "put in the hard yards".

"That means they have consistently developed youth and given youth the chance to play at the highest level," he said.

Referring to his own fight against cancer, he said he was fortunate that through his position in the sporting community he was able to raise people's awareness of the disease.

"One in three of all Australians will get cancer," he said. "The other two will know someone — a friend or a family member — who will get it."

Deakin director Bernie Lustica said the first season had exceeded all expectations, with most predicting the team would do well to stay off the bottom of the table.

"Instead we led the league for most of the season, before falling away to a still very credible sixth position," he said.

It was especially appropriate that Johnny Warren be present to launch Deakin's National Youth League season. "When he was coach of Canberra City in the inaugural year of the National Soccer League in 1977 he gave three 16-year-old Canberra boys, Steve Hogg, Danny Moulis and Mike Milovanovic, their chance in the first team," he said.

"They all went on to represent Australia at youth and senior level. Moulis became the president of the Canberra Cosmos and Milovanovic is the current coach of the ACT Academy in the NYL. "In 1978 I was given a spot in the first team at the age of 17. No other coach in the his-

tory of the NSL has had the nerve to invest so heavily in youth.

"Canberra Deakin is trying to adopt the same approach as Johnny did 28 years ago."

Assistant coach and team manager John Bull said the 2003-04 squad had drawn players from the Cooma, Belconnen United, Tuggeranong United, Canberra Olympic and Gungahlin Juventus ACT Premiership clubs, as well as Deakin.

"I thank those clubs for their cooperation in what is always a difficult time in the cross-over between the winter and summer seasons," he said.

Deakin had warmed up for the competition with an excellent 2-0 win over South Melbourne's youth team.

In answer to a question, Bull said the key to an improvement in Deakin's position in the competition would be more points gained away from home.

The club would play at Belconnen Blue Devil's home ground at the McKellar Sports Centre this season. "At McKellar, we have the opportunity to create some revenue for the club through the canteen; we will have the option of lights, which we did not have last season at Hawker Oval, as well as a larger covered stand," he said.

Soccer Canberra president Walter Valeri said his organisation supported Deakin in the NYL and wished it every success.

The full squad: Goalkeepers, Nathan Denham, Chris Morrow, Ben Klug, William Laurie; defenders, Jason Borg, Johnny Ison\*, Adrian La Butte, Matthew Gibbs, Antoni Jagarinec Ante Ruskan\*; midfielders, Nick Mihailakis, Carl Pideski\*, Hector Cerda-Cid, Matthew Menser, Ian Walden, Vlatko Tomeski, Alveron Guzman, Raven-Pasa Mohsen; mid-fielder-attackers, Robbie Cattnach, Nathan Caldwell; striker, Michael Spaletta\*.

Head coach, Vlado Horvat. Assistant coach and team manger, John Bull. Assistant coaches, Daniel Jukic, Zorap Glavinic.

\*Denotes over-age player.



## Queensland Lions Soccer Club

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## QLD GRAND FINAL *By Glenn Davis*

# LIONS — KINGS OF QUEENSLAND

Queensland Lions sent another message to Soccer Australia it's ready for national league with an historic 1-nil win over Pine Rivers in the premier league grand final at Perry Park on Saturday night.

Warren Moon's 60th minute curling free kick was enough to shatter the hopes of Pine Rivers and to complete back-to-back trebles of the Queensland Cup, premiership and grand final for Lions.

Lions set a new benchmark last year when it won the treble for the first time with many at the time believing the feat would take some time to equal.

Lions went unbeaten to win last year's premiership by a record 11 points but showed this year their strength and depth had only got better winning the championship by 17 points.

In two seasons, Lions have lost only two games in a "hangover"

from last year's success when it went down to Pine Rivers and Palm Beach in the first five rounds of the season.

Lions' grand final victory also gave it the treble for the third time in 12 years and completed a clean sweep of grand finals when its Reserve side beat Taringa 1-nil while its Youth side thrashed Pine Rivers 4-0.

Lions chief executive Lawrence Oudendyk said the club was disappointed it was overlooked for national league this season when Adelaide City folded but he was confident the call-up will eventually come.

Lions have the backing of its highly successful clubhouse and a million dollars-plus turnover, an Australian Soccer Academy that employs two fulltime coaches and a successful management team.

"We're ready for national league now and we've outgrown the local league," Oudendyk

said.

"Our coaching staff and management is in place now for national league."

Part of Lions success has come from wily coach Miron Bleiberg who is without peer in the Brisbane coaching ranks.

Bleiberg has now won six grand finals with Lions and North Star and four premierships.

Bleiberg credited Lions' management structure to his success at the club.

"If Alec Ferguson left Manchester United he would probably struggle as a coach," Bleiberg said.

"It's the same here. You're only a good coach if the club you choose is strong."

Bleiberg was set to quit his long and successful coaching career two years ago before the prospect of Lions returning to the national league fold became too tempting.

Bleiberg signed a three-year contract with Lions at the beginning of last season and is looking forward to the day Lions again is back in the national league.

Although separated by one goal, Lions clearly were the dominant side in the grand final.

"There was no doubt at any stage who was the better side," Bleiberg said.

"We did what was expected of us this season and in the grand final but full credit to Pine Rivers who achieved what was unexpected from them."

"It was just another day at the office for us."

"We knew if they were to score it would probably come from set pieces but the chance of that happening was reduced when they lost Clayton Koch with an injury."

Bleiberg believed Lions was off their game in the first half and missed several chances but their confidence rose sharply when Koch, the only player-coach in the league, left the field.

"It was one way traffic in the second half," he said.

"We missed three one on ones and hit the post once."

Bleiberg was a little surprised Pine Rivers did not launch a full-scale attack until late in the game.

"We expected Pine Rivers would come at us a lot more in the second but we dominated possession and it was more of the same," he said.

Pine Rivers eventually put Lions under extreme pressure pumping balls into the box during five minutes of time added on but keeper Jason Lucas was rarely tested.

Despite their loss, Koch and Pine Rivers can stand tall accomplishing a rare feat to make the grand final in its first season back in the premier league.

Pine Rivers was relegated in 1996 but won promotion last year after winning first division by 11 points.

Koch was one of several walking wounded for Pine Rivers in the grand final.

Koch was forced from the field after he succumbed to a calf injury he suffered in training during the week.

"I strained my calf at training during the week but I had a fitness test before the game and it felt right," Koch said.

"Unfortunately it grabbed me just before half time and I had to come off."

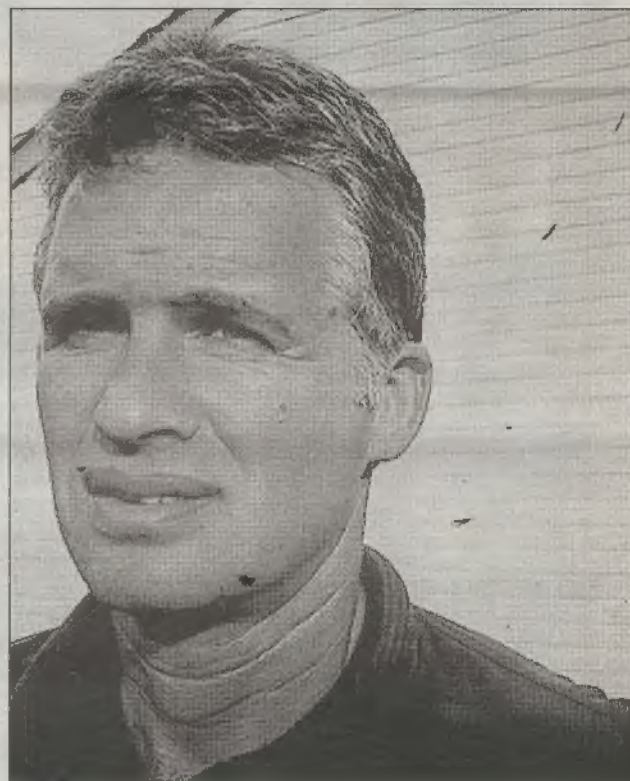
Koch's place at sweeper was taken by Joel Hale who also started despite popping his shoulder twice in the previous two semi-finals.

As well as Koch and Hale, veteran defender Mark Greer battled throughout grand final with a calf injury that also had disrupted his semi-final build up.

"We had several of our more experienced players carrying injuries and it was a little disheartening," Koch said.

"But Joel Hale and Mark Greer both have big games despite carrying injuries."

"Hale had a needle in his shoulder before the game but it



Miron Bleiberg: Victorious Queensland Lions coach.

didn't work and he was in a lot of pain."

Greer, 38, and experienced keeper Peter Underhill announced their retirements after the grand final.

Despite the loss of Greer and Underhill, Koch is confident Pine Rivers can make next year's final again.

"I'll be playing on next year and although we'll lose Peter and Mark, I think we can strengthen the squad," Koch said.

"Players have been approaching us to play next year which is a big change and a lot of former Pine Rivers' players are keen to comeback after we did so well this year."

Koch believed his side showed a lot of spirit and fight considering the number of injury concerns it had going into the grand final.

"We had a lot of players on one arm or one leg but we fought well and showed a lot of spirit," he said.

Koch believed Pine Rivers had their chance of an upset but was denied by two superb saves by Lucas in the opening few minutes.

"Lucas somehow managed a finger tip save to stop a header from Seb Thatchell, then we broke down field and a header from Lucas Noble was again stopped by Lucas."

Koch believed the free kick, which led to Moon's match winning goal, should never have been given.

"Lions were getting a lot of free kicks but I thought the free kick which led to the goal was a stupid decision," he said.

"Overall the better team won on the night as we didn't have many chances."

"They got men behind the ball well once they scored."

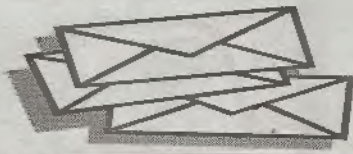
"We put them under a lot of pressure but the pressure didn't transfer into creating chances."



Warren Moon: Scored the only goal that won the Grand-Final for the Queensland Lions.



# Letters to the Editor



## FARINA QUESTIONED!

Dear Sir,

I would like to question Frank Farina's over reliance on players that play their trade in the English Premier League.

In particular I would like to question Farina's attitude when it comes to selecting squads and choosing starting line ups.

It seems to me that any Aussie playing in England has a great chance of making the Socceroo grade at the expense of other, perhaps more talented players who play in other leagues in Europe.



Socceroo coach Frank Farina.

Mark Schwarzer is the prime example. He has not impressed me both at club level and with the national team, and his defending and organisation of defensive free kicks leaves a lot to be desired. Surely it is time for Zeljko Kalac to take the Number 1 guernsey off him. He has done amazing things in Italy and he has waited patiently in the wings as Bosnich and Schwarzer collapse around him.

Same goes for the likes of Grella and Bresciano. The latter's recent performances have shown his creative talent in any midfield position. Both players are versatile and are learning from the best in Serie A, when it comes to pressing and creative play.

Frank Farina should be drafting these players into the starting line up before it is too late.

Franco Cevallos,  
Double Bay, NSW.

## NO MEDIA COVERAGE ON TV - AGAIN

Dear Sir,

The National Soccer League has started again, but who is watching?

This may shape up to be the season where soccer plunges to its lowest depth, before it is finally revived. I hope the latter part comes true.

With so many clubs struggling with the lack of money, coverage, sponsorships and supporters, the national competition has become a poor relative of the other football codes.

Hopefully the administrators can take stock of the situation and design and manage this new Australian Premier League, which is fast becoming a mirage on the horizon.

In an ideal national competition, we should have representation from Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Wollongong and Newcastle. Melbourne can support two teams, Sydney three. I'd also like to support a New Zealand team as I think that Australia, as the leader of Oceania, has a responsibility to support its neighbours. And what about a Canberra team based around the AIS squad?

Food for thought...

Ivo Blackney,  
Bass Hill, NSW.

## WAKE UP GUYS

Dear Sir,

It's so like Soccer Australia to once again fail to attain the rights for watching any National League matches live every week.

What a farce - I would

have thought that under

the new leadership of

Frank Lowy the TV issue

would not have been a problem.

I beg to differ though as nothing has come out of

**7sport**

the media stating that the rights for TV have been claimed by anyone.

Why is that? I just wish something like the SBS or C7 Pay TV era surfaced itself once more on the box.

John Nicita  
Georges Hall, NSW.

## WELL DONE ADELAIDE

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to the new Adelaide venture.

I think that this new set up will bring South Australian soccer back to the forefront of the national game in the years to come.

The sport has suffered under the very political leadership of Bob D'Ottavi at Adelaide City, and while this once great club has sadly folded, it would be silly of people to think that Adelaide United does not herald a wonderful new beginning for soccer in South Australia.

This club is backed by people who share the same ideals as the Perth Glory club, and this is another symbol of the changing face of soccer in the country.

Scott Lawrence,  
Adelaide, SA.

## NO MORE HEART

Dear Sir,

It is unfortunate that the soccer world is being dominated by formations and tactics, rather than free will and spirit.

Watching The World Game last Sunday, I was astonished and exhausted by the statistics that had been compiled on the Australia-Jamaica match. Who really wants to know from which side of the pitch the most crosses came from? Will this knowledge benefit Frank Farina in the World Cup qualifiers? No!

Why can't the Socceroos be more about the 'passion', a word much used by Johnny Warren?

Maybe I am old fashioned, but I would like to see national teams play with the spirit of yesteryear, the spirit symbolised by Bobby Moore, Garrincha and Paolo Rossi. Such players would surely be lost to the modern game, which emphasises containment rather than creativity.

The victorious Brazil teams of 1994 and 2002 have betrayed their past in their often cynical and tactical approach to the game. While this style does produce results, these are empty results.

Australia will never qualify for a World Cup on tactics alone, they need heart and spirit as much as everything else.

Ryan O'Sullivan,  
Richmond, VIC.

## FARINA'S TACTICS

Dear Sir,

Just wanted to vent my frustration at the fact that when the Socceroos played the Jamaicans a few weeks back, he only used two players as substitutes.

Kalac and Sterjovski who came on with under ten minutes to go were the only changes Frank made to the squad.

I know its all about keeping a consistent team together, but being a friendly match, every player should be used.

Its no wonder the players themselves argue about playing for their country as they never get a chance to do so with tactics such as this.

Personally I believe Frank is a great coach however the use of more players will only benefit the side no dampen it.

He has nothing to lose so he should just give it a shot.

Mark Muscron,  
Dulwich Hill, NSW.

## ADELAIDE UNITED GETS MAJOR SPONSOR

Dear Sir,

The support for the Adelaide United Football Club continues to grow with hundreds of soccer mad fans registering their interest for the imminent National Soccer League season 2003/2004 and the club securing a major sponsorship from Bianco Building

Supplies.

United's NSL season starts on Friday October 17 against Brisbane Strikers at Hindmarsh Stadium, 7.30pm kick-off.

The club has developed a range of corporate hospitality and signage packages. The demand from both the community and corporate sector has been so strong, that many of the corporate boxes and perimeter signage packages at Hindmarsh Stadium have already been snapped up.

Leading Adelaide building supplier and merchant and long standing supporter of all levels of soccer, Mr Nick Bianco has signed up as major sponsor for the new club.

"Nick Bianco has once again shown his confidence and faith in South Australia's soccer public, by backing the Adelaide United Football Club with substantial sponsorship," club patron Mr. Gordon Pickard said.

The Bianco Building Supplies brand will be positioned on the back of the stylish strip of the Adelaide United Football Club.

"I have had dealings with Gordon Pickard for over 25 years, and I have every bit of confidence in his work. I will support the team because I too, like Gordon, believe we are starting something special for all passionate soccer fans in South Australia," Mr. Nick Bianco said.

"Bianco Building Supplies' association with the Adelaide United Football Club is only the beginning of what we hope will be significant support for the club from South Australian corporates," President Mr. Basil Scarsella said.

The Club has appointed Angelo Picca as the Marketing Manager to manage services to the corporates and to handle the promotion, media and publicity for the newly born South Australian club.

"Angelo has made a great contribution during the start up stages of the Adelaide United Football Club and we are delighted to appoint him in a very important role," Mr. Scarsella said.

## WOMEN ARE ON THE MARCH

By Ted Simmons

**W**omen's soccer is finally making its mark but it still has a long way to go before emerging from the male domination of the last century.

Australian women's national coach Adrian said until recently women's soccer had been anonymous and invisible but was now moving out of that darkness.

Santrac and the Australian team are currently in the United States to participate in the finals of the Womens World Cup.

In a hard-hitting interview before he left, Santrac said there had to be changes in funding, development, recognition and the role of women to achieve success.

"Women were playing soccer in England in the 1800s and it has always been accessible but was under-utilised," he said.

"Males dominated the home, environments and sport with women playing a far lesser role but social changes in past decades have made a vast difference, particularly for women in sport.

"In the last 15 years, they have achieved more credibility outside the home in dramatic style and even gained government support.

"This was made evident by the huge success of the first Women's World Cup in the United States in 1991 and the amazing 90,000 crowd figure for the Olympic final at Atlanta in 1996."

Santrac said the subsequent recognition by FIFA and globalisation of the game forced the rest of the world to place a big priority on women's soccer.

FIFA has now started a ranking system for women the same as it has for the men after a survey revealed some 22 million women play football regularly in over 130 countries. more than 100 teams contested the preliminary competition for the 2003 World Cup and further statistics show that 3,000 international matches have been played from 1970 up to the end of 2002.

And in Australia, similar surveys show that women's soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in the country with only netball more popular as a team sport.

"The development of members has been rapid and if the game was properly promoted there would be an explosion of massive proportions," Santrac forecast.

"There is now a general awareness that women can play soccer but their potential has not been achieved. Playing soccer increases the standing of women.

"Look at the number of women now playing different sports. it has increased their status and the way they are viewed in society and encourages other women to become involved."

Santrac also suggested that there should be improvements in Oceania for women's soccer and said Australia should play a greater role in giving such help.

As the largest and strongest nation, he said, Australia should use its resources to bring about improvements but it should always be mindful of the culture in the Island nations which could slow progress.

At the recent Oceania World Cup qualifying tournament in Canberra, some teams were short of key players because fathers and

husbands were not prepared to allow their women to travel or be away from home.

But any doubts that the women's game is progressing would be quickly erased by the New Zealand coach Sandy Davie, who supported beliefs of Santrac.

"Back in the late 70s, the image of women's soccer was not worth talking about. Coaches were usually boyfriends, fathers or husbands and the game plodded on because knowledge didn't matter," Davie said.

"Women were crying out for knowledge. New Zealand fell into a void and is now trying to play catchup with the successful result that it is the Number One sport for females in schools in New Zealand.

"Competitions for players from 10 to 16 is giving a conveyor belt of talent and the start of a women's national league last year has also helped."

Santrac and Davie cited the United States as an example of what could and should be done. They listed government and business funding and the development of people with background and knowledge to work in the sport.

New Zealand captain Rebecca Smith, who started playing soccer when she was five, joined Duke University in the US where she said the sport was becoming more popular with many new leagues starting.

"It's a simple game to play which has the attraction of travel as well as opening doors and meeting new people," she said.

"In the US, we can make a living out of women's soccer as well as getting university scholarships."

R. Melor,  
Bondi, NSW.

# PREMIERSHIP BIZARRIO

*It's Nige and Derek here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarrio. Each week we give you all the news and our views from around the grounds of the EPL.*

This week saw resumption to normal events in the English Premier League and the start to the Euro Big Cash League. As we look at the list of top scorers we see the usual suspects such as Van Horseface, Terry Henry, Michael Owing. But who is the top man of the moment? Good old Teddy Boy Sherringham.

At 37, Teddy is still shaking up the kids. Ted has had to use all his diplomacy skills to talk good old geezer and Pompey manager Arry Redknapp into ignoring any tapping up that Ted's old club, Spurs, are rumoured to be considering.

Whilst Spurs were getting the hot about Arry, they were also trying to sign over the hill Georgian International Georgian George Kinkladze. George was obviously not flattered by Spurs' approach because he immediately turned down an opportu-

ty to play Premier League football, to sign for Dundee. Dundee must be making a big run at Europe with a possible entry through to the Mr Clutches' Scottish League Cup, as they made a grab for another old geezer in the shape of The Old White Feather (sounds like a good English pub), Fab Rav.

There has been a sinister side to the 1st 4 weeks of the English Premier League with the ever-increasing red card count. As of this week there has been 18 ejections excluding the 2 managers that have been sent to the stands and an incredible 108 yellows. It's hard to see anyone getting a back door entry into Europe if you extrapolate those numbers over the rest of the season.

Such are the rigours of playing in the EPL it's important that all the youngsters don't neglect their education. In the case of Wayne Roonaldinho, his club, Everton, has taken this very seriously and by even setting homework. Hall monitor Wayne's homework isn't the usual calculus or contemporary classics, Roonaldinho

has to watch videos of classics such as 101 greatest goals and endless boring goals scored by Van Horseface and DIY mamac Alan Shearer. Life gets tougher and tougher for the young man.

Footballers in the EPL are famous for their exploits in the bar, at the racetrack

Banana TV



Premiership Bizarrio

and in the occasional bundle. Not so, in the case of goal machine Alan Shearer.

A wild night for Big Al is a heavy session with the missus creosoting the ceilings. Steady on Al! But Al Shearer isn't

the only boring bastard in the EPL. Football Hell rauser and management nightmare Nick Anelka has been the subject of a kiss and tell story (if there was any kissing to tell about).

It seems that Nick pulls a young lady who (for the sake of anonymity) we'll call Beth Moutry, at a nightclub. She knows who Nick is and thinks that she's done all right for herself as she gets into his flash Ferrari. He suggests getting something to eat. Beth thinks things are getting better and can't wait for him to meet the folks.

But that's where the dream ended, as Nick pulls around to his manager's brother's gaff to pick him up and go to Sainsbury's to pick up a couple of frozen pizzas.

He took them back to his pad and got her to heat up the pizzas while he and his bruv watched the box. Way to impress the chicks Nick!

If Nick were trying to impress a chick in Romania, he would have to resort to the boring art of conversation, as there is a massive shortage of TVs. After last

week's draw in the Euro 2004 qualifiers with Denmark, there were several reports, country wide, that Police had numerous calls about small explosions. The investigations resulted in findings that TVs had been ripped out of walls and thrown out of windows at the conclusion of the game.

This week we will finish with an award for Idiot of the Week. This prestigious award goes to West Brom's Macedonian International, Artim Sakiri, who says he did nothing wrong in the spiteful Euro 2004 qualifier when he told Becks that he would be lucky to get out of the country with his life. Considering Sakiri lives in the Midlands, what chance does he have of getting back home to find his house has been burnt down? It seems like Sakiri forgot where he gets his bread buttered.

There ends another week of Bizarrio in the Premiership. You can catch up with all the latest bollocks each week by tuning your computer into [www.bananatv.com](http://www.bananatv.com).

See you here next week!

Nige & Derek  
Premiership Bizarrio

## RUSSIAN HEARTBREAK FOR MATILDAS

The Russians left it late to down brave Australia 1-2 on 21 September in Carson, California. After slamming a second-half penalty off the crossbar, Elena Fomina unleashed a right-footed blast in minute 89 that took a cruel deflection and nestled in the back of the net to settle the Group D clash.

On a hot evening just outside of Los Angeles, the Australians considered themselves unlucky indeed as they played the Russians evenly for most of the match. Kelly Golebiowski gave the OCEANIA representatives the lead, but saw it disintegrate just 60 seconds later when Dianne Alagich steered the ball woefully into her own net. And the late Russian strike damned the courageous Matildas to yet another FIFA Women's World Cup loss.

The Russians earned a 1-1 draw with Australia in a bruising Group D encounter with Australia without ever having scored a goal of their own in Carson, California on

21 September. Only 60 seconds after Kelly Golebiowski opened the scoring for the Matildas, defender Diane Alagich steered the ball woefully into her own goal. A missed penalty from Russia's Elena Fomina in the second half had the two sides settling for a point apiece.

On a warm evening just outside of Los Angeles, the first draw of USA 2003 never truly settled into any sort of rhythm. Both sides will have to be happy with a one-point start at the finals.

Australia began brightly but without really penetrating Joanne Peters, in particular, was showing some neat touches in the centre of the park and the Matildas looked determined to get their first victory in the competition's history.

However chances were at a premium in the opening half an hour and instead an interesting battle for midfield dominance was being played out to determine who would come out on top between the two well-matched teams.

Peters almost played the impressive Heather Garriock in for Australia but she took one touch too heavy (26'). At the other end, Natalia Barbachina was played through but she pulled her shot, from the right edge of the box, well wide (27').

Then, suddenly, out of nowhere Australia had the ball in the net. Rhian Davies clipped the ball through to Danielle Small who controlled instantly before striking the post with her second touch. The rebound fell to Kelly Golebiowski to gratefully tuck into the unguarded net (1-0, 38').

Less than 60 seconds later and Russia were level in the most unfortunate fashion Marina Saenko whipped in a right-sided free kick and defender Dianne Alagich miss-hit her clearance past Cassandra Kell and into her own net (1-1, 39').

Having earlier struck a 40-yarder just over the bar, the Russian defender was proving to be a master of dead-ball situations and she forced Kell into a fine tip-over save

just before half-time after another super strike from fully 35 yards (44').

Saenko started the second half where she had left off in the first by hitting a stunning 22-yard free kick that Kell spectacularly fingertipped over (47').

Strangely, the second half was taking the same form as the opening period with neither team really getting on top. Barbachina was isolated alone in attack for The Europeans should have taken the lead when Barbachina's shirt was tugged by Tai Karp just inside the area. Elena Fomina sent the keeper the wrong way with the penalty but it struck the crossbar instead of bulging the net (72').

Australia kept giving away free kicks in dangerous positions and from another, this time from Barbachina, Kell saved well low down to her right (73').

The teams were noticeably tiring as the game entered its final stages and more chances were being created. Golebiowski's chip was saved by Alia Volkova (82'), then Fomina tried to make up for her penalty miss by walking through the Australian defence but she took one touch too many (83').

Russia almost won it in the last minute when the dangerous Barbachina was played through on goal, took the ball round the keeper but seemed to lose her footing at the crucial moment (89').

Seconds later they did win it. Fomina, who had earlier missed the penalty, picked up possession 30 yards out, took two steps forward and belted a stinging shot that took a deflection off the knee of Matildas' captain Cheryl

Salisbury before finding the corner of the net (1-2, 89').

Garriock came close to

equalising with a 20-yard drive of her own in the dying seconds but there was no

way back for the unlucky Australians (90').

"We were a bit nervous at the beginning," said Russian coach Yuri Bystritsky after the match. "But we finally got into our stride towards the end of the match. The three points now stands us in good stead for a place in the quarter-finals."

Australia coach Adrian Santrac was pleased with the performance but disappointed with the result.

"We played with a lot of heart and dominated possession but they sat back and absorbed it and then hit us on the break."

### AUSTRALIA'S DRAW

Thu 25 Sept China v Australia  
7.00pm  
Home Depot Center, Los Angeles

Sun 28 Sept Ghana v Australia  
5.15pm  
PGE Park, Portland

### THE BLOCKS SAYS ...

By Daniel Kuzlow

What can possibly be said about Kevin Muscat other than that he is an absolute bloody maniac!

After only two games at his new club Millwall, Muscat had a brain snap and stomped over his Watford opponent after, (get this) he had won the ball fair and square.

The resulting penalty levelled the game and Watford went on to win the game quite comfortably 3-1 with the advent of an extra man following Muscat's immediate dismissal.

But such actions have become part and parcel of Muscat's rather mediocre playing style. He is known as a hard man, but what else other than a loose cannon!

At Wolves he gained a reputation that he couldn't shake and this came to a head a Rangers. After only playing a handful of games for the Scottish champs Muscat was promptly shoved into the stands to hardly feature for the rest of the season. And why did this happen might you ask?

Because his rather over the top physical style didn't accommodate well with Alex McLeish and McLeish as a competent and successful manager refused to risk Muscat

destroy their tilt on the championship through one reckless challenge.

After spending all this time on the subs bench, any other sane person (I think anyway) would realise that maybe there was a need to change their style of play.

But no!

After getting a chance to resurrect his career with a move to Millwall, in his very first game for the club, Muscat was accused of trying to get an opponent sent off, by faking injury.

Subsequently his manager Mark McGhee warned him to control his manner, yet in only the very next game, Muscat goes nuts and stomps on Danny Webber inside the penalty.

One might forgive Muscat if such a brain snap had been the first in a long and distinguished career. But this is part and parcel of ol' Kev's game and he should be the last person to seek sympathy for his actions—which he came out this week and sought to receive.

I hope the FA Ban him for an extended period of time—not only for the incident from two weeks ago, but also out of sheer madness!

Is it any wonder defenders are labelled as stupid creatures when these individuals run out each week to represent them?



Matilda players celebrate Kelly Golebiowski's goal that wasn't enough to give the Australians the victory over Russia.

# Green & Gold Army Series

Green & Gold Army  
http://www.ggarmy.com

## S O C C E R N O O S

Matildas at the Cup – follow them with us

Own the Socceroos v England on DVD

The Matildas are waltzing their way to the USA – follow their progress at  
ggarmy.com  
GOOD LUCK GIRLS

Come to ggarmy.com and follow the link to own your own piece of Oz soccer glory!!

Fancy yourself as a sports writer? Send us your best

Your chance to choose our Sydney home

Are you a budding sports writer just waiting to break out? Why not write up a report of the Jamaica game or any Australian soccer match and send it to us at admin@ggarmy.com and share it with the ggarmy

We have been somewhat nomadic with our Sydney events of late but welcome your ideas on any pubs or clubs or areas that you would prefer events to be held. Do we want to meet near the city, out West, North Shore? You decide. Feel free to drop us a line at admin@ggarmy.com to voice your opinion.

What do you think of the Socceroos performances? Tell us in our NEW Fan Forum

The Green and Gold Army – Australia's national soccer supporters group

The GGArmy.com forum has been running for a month and it is starting to hot up with debates over selections and global talk from Australian fans overseas. If you want to talk Socceroos or Aussie soccer issues- ggarmy.com is the place. Log on today

Join free today by visiting ggarmy.com

# Walking the friendly tight rope

By Mark van Allen

When Australia plays any sport, generally speaking, it is game on. Niceties are swept aside. This is no more the case than in Soccer. It is most likely a combination of Socceroos fixtures being a rarity and our ultra competitive nature that sees us go hell for leather in friendlies where the result is often close to irrelevant.

Christophe Duggar can attest to the fact that the Socceroos don't take a backward step, friendly or not. This attitude comes from intrinsic Australian values, inherited from our other sports teams and broadly speaking our Australian psyche.

It is fair to say this attitude of win and attack at all costs is not exactly in sink with the values of global football culture. Some of the great teams of the game, past and present understand the fundamental principals of what is in essence a glorified practise match. It seems that we do not.

Maybe it's because when our other high profile teams play 'Tests' they are largely treated as the real thing. When Australia's cricketers play any Test it is always at full tilt because all matches count towards the ICC Championship (so you are essentially playing a World Cup game every time) and there is no World Cup for Test Cricket. In the abbreviated version of the game, VB Series games and the like often see a less than full strength team take the field as part of a 'rotation' policy. This gives all in the top squad a chance to experience playing for Australia and to give the coaching staff a thorough look at all the players under international conditions.

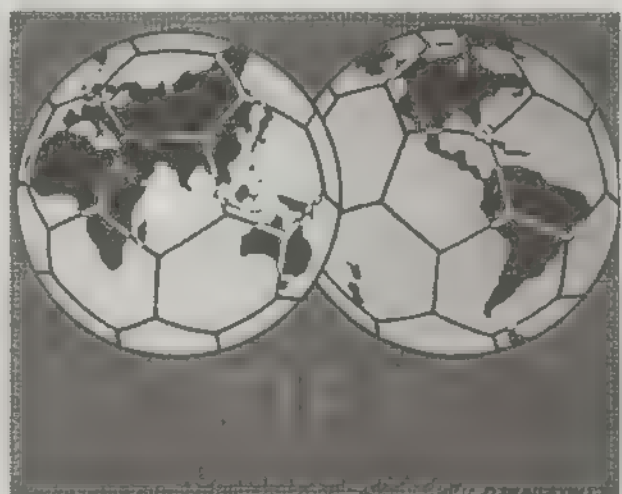
The rugby codes have their own World Cups of varying size, relevance and importance. While the Wallabies butting heads with England or New Zealand at the RWC is a gigantic event, so is any meeting between the nations, home or away- whether playing for the Webb Ellis Trophy or the far less illustrious 'Cook Cup'

Australia v England at Telstra Dome this year in Melbourne was sold out and although in soccer parlance it was just a 'friendly', it was of paramount interest and importance in both hemispheres. Rarely when our national teams play is this not the case. Maybe it's because of this that Farina transfers this win at all costs and caution first selection philosophy over to the world game.

It is interesting that the country that seems to be the model for Australian soccer, England, has suffered only one loss this calendar year- to Australia of course- in a friendly. It has won all of its five European qualifiers. Sven Goran Eriksson copped a lot of flack for

his experimental team against the Socceroos back in February. Keeping in mind that the mass changes made at half time in that game were largely forced upon him, Sven still fielded several players that would normally not make the three lions starting XI.

The theory that friendlies are just that, experimental games that don't matter too much is one to which the Swede keenly subscribes. As Beckham said after the loss "a lot will be made of it because it's Australia but it is just a friendly". It's that ideology that allowed Beck's and the England team to put the result behind them and get back on track and win every game since.



Sven was even experimenting with his England team only weeks before last years World Cup, leaving many questioning how he had not settled on a team so close to the big dance. This is in stark contrast to our own manager who appears to know exactly who he wants for the next World Cup some three years out. The contrast in selection styles is stunning to say the least.

In their recent friendlies against Ireland and Jamaica the Socceroos have had a familiar shape and make up. Even when injuries to key players robbed Farina of his first team against the 'reggae boyz', handing management the perfect opportunity to experiment, the older names came into play. Names like Vidmar, Laybutt and Corica were called up to plug our leaky defence instead of future stars like Milicevic, Kisinorbo or Tarka.

In hind site we can see that the defence by and large stood up. But it does beg the question for what reason do we play friendlies? To

win or to simply get together and build a team? Winning helps of course, particularly against an old enemy like England. However in reality a game against an Ireland or a Jamaica holds no real cultural significance to us as the Australian sporting public and the fact that we lost 2-1 to Ireland, a top 20 team, doesn't concern us as a collective group. As a manager or an average fan would you prefer a draw after playing poorly or what we got in Dublin – a good performance with a tick in the loss column? The answer is subjective but in a friendly where we are only beginning our 3 year campaign towards Germany I know my answer.

Performance and player growth and education should largely over ride results in 'friendly' football. Former Socceroo Craig Foster said it all on TWG last week when he noted that our performance and not our win loss record are the positives out of the last fortnight's matches.

Greater experimentation and more substitutions could perhaps (if playing Serie A regular like Vince Grella is a risk) hurt the Socceroos in the short term but reap untold benefits in the future.

Some sections of the soccer fraternity suggest that Farina is under pressure to provide results now. If this is the case then he shouldn't be. Frank has a job to deliver Australia an appearance at the finals in Germany, not friendly victories 32 months before hand. Any pressure, real or implied, on him to field teams for the now at the expense of the future are undue, unwanted and grossly misguided

No doubt being the big fish in the pond that is Oceania robs us of meaningful 'real' matches. As such the majority of our program is made up of friendlies. In this respect it means we have no choice but to treat them seriously. Globally this isn't the case. According to FIFA, in 2002, almost two thirds of 'A Internationals' played were friendlies, a figure that was extraordinarily high no doubt due to the World Cup finals being played in the same year. The previous year, 2001, the number of friendly matches played globally was only 34% with the average over the last 15 years being 51%.

Without competitive fixtures about the bulk of our games are friendlies. Even our 'serious' games in the OFC are rarely that. So in this regard friendlies must mean more to us, but we also mustn't lose site of the forest for the trees. Frank Farina is not alone in walking the tight rope that all football managers do. The 200 or so national managers around the world walk it with him every game, for the sake of Australian soccer we can only hope he balances well.

# DARCY'S NOW SET TO TAKE ON INDIA

Dusan 'Darcy' Purac is a former great Yugoslav professional soccer player turned soccer skills coach here in Australia.

A few years ago Purac produced Australia's only FIFA recommended soccer skills coaching videos, **READY SET GOAL**. This video has enjoyed good success here in Australia and more recently in the UK where RSG was released just over 12 months ago.

This week **READY SET GOAL** is to be released in one of the world's most populated countries, India. Indian distribution giant ULTRA will be distributing Ready Set Goal to video, department and sports stores all over the sub continent. The video will be translated into 7 Indian languages. Ultra distributes productions from Universal Pictures as well as making their own feature films and documentaries in India.

India has over 300 million soccer (football) fans and a very strong national league. India boasts more junior players than any other country.

Ready Set Goal features the world class skills of Dusan 'Darcy' Purac. Purac, who played professionally in

Yugoslavia in the 70's and was voted most valuable player in national indoor competition on 4 separate occasions. His ability with the ball earned him the nickname "White Pele".



Dusan 'Darcy' Purac

RSG also features some of Australia's top junior talents, many of whom are now finding their way into NSL and national teams.

Purac is a little unsure of what to expect in the way of sales or acceptance for the video in India but is sure that any young fan that purchases a copy will benefit. He also knows that if RSG falls into the right hands then it may open doors for coaching opportunities with India professional teams.

Since moving to Sydney over 20 years ago Darcy has dedicated his time to sharing his talent with junior players. Dusan Purac's Soccer Academy attracts hundreds of students each year, many of whom go on to representative level, including playing for Australia. Ready Set Goal is a step by step guide on how to learn and practice many of soccer's advanced skills, skills that any serious player needs to know. Ready Set Goal is a perfect coaching tool for soccer players of any age.

Ready Set Goal is available here in Australia via Rebel Sport Stores, selected Civic video outlets or directly from [www.readysetgoal.com.au](http://www.readysetgoal.com.au).



Tough tackling defender Kevin Muscat was in trouble once more after being shown a red yet again!

**S**OCCEEROO defender Kevin Muscat has apologised to his Millwall teammates for being sent off last weekend, costing his side the match.

Muscat - dubbed the Wicked of Oz by tabloids - had just won a tackle and was in possession when he broke stride and dug his studs into the back of Watford striker Danny Webber's legs, inside his own penalty box and under the referee's nose.

At the time, the scores were level at 1-1 and the referee was about to blow half-time.

## 'Wicked of Oz' apologises

Watford scored from the penalty and a 10-man Millwall slumped to a 3-1 loss.

"I apologise to everyone at the club. I have let them down badly," Muscat said today.

The Australian's future at his new club looked doubtful after the match, with manager Mark McGhee and his team-mates blaming him for the loss.

But McGhee said he would include Muscat in the side for tonight's game against Wimbledon.

He said Muscat would be fined the maximum allowable under club rules.

"He knows how angry I am and he has a lot of making up to do," McGhee said.

Muscat, 30, joined Millwall from Scottish club Rangers this year and is no stranger to on-field controversy.

He is being sued for STG1 million (\$2.42 million) by former Charlton midfielder Matt Holmes over a career-ending tackle in 1998.

## I'm no coward: Neill

**S**OCCEEROO defender Lucas Neill has refuted allegations he's a dirty player as tensions continue to simmer over his crude tackle that left Liverpool's Jamie Carragher with a broken leg.

Neill has been hammered by the English press since the weekend's clash between his Blackburn Rovers and Liverpool, when his two-footed first-half challenge on Carragher ruled out the English defender for six months.

Neill was immediately sent off and some have called for the Australian to be banned for the remainder of the premiership season.

Reds manager Gerard Houllier has labelled Neill a "coward", but the Soccerroo today defended his actions, declaring he'd make the same tackle again if the situation arose.

"I just hope that I'm not considered the bad boy of football because there's no way I'm a bad boy," Neill told Sydney radio station 2KY.

"They're trying to drag my name through the mud a little bit. (But) if there's another 50-50 (situation) I'm going to go in and I'm going to go in committed and hard. I'm not going to go in to hurt anybody, I'm going to go in and tackle and win the ball for my team and I stand by that."

"If there's ever a tackle to be made, I'll go in for it."

"If I might get hurt out of it, I'll go in and I'll do it for the good of the team."

Neill has categorically

denied any planning of the tackle, stating he didn't even know whom he was tackling at the time.

"At no stage whatsoever did I premeditate that I was

that, it's unfortunate and it's not something I obviously wanted to happen."

Neill added that once he knew Carragher had been taken from the field, he



Soccerroo defender Lucas Neill being shown a red-card against Liverpool.

going to injure the lad that I was tackling because I didn't know who I was tackling," he said.

"I've just gone in and I won the ball but I've probably gone in a little bit overzealous and I've ended up being sent off."

"I wasn't sure at half-time in the game that I'd actually made the guy that I'd tackled have to be carried from the field and after that the next day we'd realised that he'd broken his leg."

"I'm very saddened by

tracked him down to apologise.

"I spoke to him at half time in the game and I said 'listen, I never took my eyes off the ball when I tackled you' My eyes were only for the ball."

"I looked him straight in the eye and said, 'Listen, I'm really sorry, I honestly didn't mean to hurt you'."

"And he looked at me and he said, 'Yeah, fine, no problems, I have no problem with it'."

## South Melbourne give up on Damianos

**S**outh Melbourne has given up the fight for Bill Damianos, saying the players' union is his last hope to get a release from Greek club Xanthi. "We've hit a brick wall," South president Peter Mitrakas said.

Xanthi has refused South's token offer for a transfer and claims Damianos is in breach of his contract by not returning to Greece for pre-season after being loaned to South last season. "We've done as much as we can," Mitrakas said. "The PFA (players' union) should be battling for him."

Damianos conceded his situation looked bleak, but he has one advantage — he is not affected by the transfer deadline that expired on Monday. "We hold his registration already, so we can play him any time once Xanthi grants him a transfer," Mitrakas said.

Damianos is contracted, but the union can argue a powerful case invoking FIFA rules for Xanthi to resume paying his wages if it refuses a release. "I've been holding off while South Melbourne has been talking directly to the club," Damianos said yesterday.

"I know the (Xanthi) president is being quite stubborn, and if they leave me no other option, I will go to the union. I haven't missed a training session since the start of pre-season, so although I might not be there for the start of the season, I'm going to be ready as soon as it's resolved."

Damianos is among several special cases not affected by the transfer deadline. A second player, goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic, can also sign for Melbourne Knights beyond the deadline because he is out of contract.

Knezevic is back in Melbourne after stints in Adelaide and Sydney and has had talks with the club that gave him his first chance — he played in a winning NSL grand final in only his second NSL appearance in 1996.

One player who completed a move before the transfer deadline was disgruntled South Melbourne striker Michael Baird, who joined Sydney Olympic on a year's loan. "We agreed to it because we don't have to wear his wages, yet he remains our player," Mitrakas said.



Billy Damianos failed to get his official clearance from Greek club Xanthi and will not play for South Melbourne this year.

## Neill Proves Critics Wrong

**L**UCAS Neill shrugged off a week of controversy with a match-winning performance today in Blackburn's 2-1 win over Portsmouth in English Soccer's Premier League.

A week ago, Neill's ugly two-footed lunge at Liverpool's Jamie Carragher led to a broken leg for Carragher and a red card for the Australian fullback. A loss for Blackburn and an up-spa

between rival managers Graeme Souness and Gerard Houllier, who branded Neill a coward.

Under the Football Association's complicated rules, Neill earned an automatic three-match ban — a tough Liverpool fans' card for a longer sentence — but was still eligible to play today against the new Premier League Portsmouth. He made the most of his chance, scoring for

the Rovers in a 35th minute goalmouth scramble to spark their first win since the opening day of the season.

"A performance like that makes him a better footballer and a better man," Souness said of Neill.

He showed he's a man with his attitude. You've got to give him a special mention. It has been a difficult week for him but he did very well."

The English media heavily

criticised Neill for the tackle that pretty much ended Carragher for the first half of the season branding him a coward but all was proven wrong as the ever determined Australian put in a terrific performance for his side.

Fellow Soccerroo Brett Emerton set up Blackburn's second goal and stamped his authority on being yet another Australian making a big hit in the English Premier League.

# National Soccer League club's look to world stage

One of Australia's leading National Soccer League sides could soon be rubbing shoulders with the likes of Real Madrid, Manchester United or AC Milan and in the process potentially earning a multi-million dollar pay-cheque.

The FIFA Executive Committee's yet to be ratified recommendation earlier this year that the FIFA Club World Championship would be held in 2005, means that the 2003/04 NSL Champions may be eligible to participate in the Oceania Club Championship, with the winning club to represent Oceania alongside representatives from each of FIFA's confederations.

South Melbourne represented Oceania at the initial tournament held in Brazil in 2000 earning respectable results against the likes of England's Manchester United, Brazilian side Vasco da Gama and Necaxa of Mexico. Wollongong Wolves were Oceania's representative in 2001, however the tournament was subsequently cancelled.

The FIFA Club World Championship may not be the only opportunity for NSL clubs to appear on the international stage with discussions being held between the Oceania Football Confederation and the Asian Football Confederation to allow club teams from Oceania to compete in the AFC's President's Cup.

Following the success this year of the first ever Asian Champions League, the AFC are looking to complement that tournament with similar competitions, including the President's Cup. Ratification of the new competitions, along with the possible admission of teams from Oceania, is to be discussed by the AFC at their meeting next month.

"These are exciting developments and potentially fantastic opportunities for our clubs to compete on the international stage," said National Soccer League General Manager Stefan Kamasz.

"An enhanced level of competition with other nations, in particular with our Asian neighbours, is clearly the way of the future."

Meanwhile the NSL's newest club, Adelaide United, continue to generate a considerable amount of interest in their home state. The club, who will play in South Australian state colours of red, blue and yellow, will be seen by many to be the first broad based club, fully representative of the city and state.

Taking the reins at the fledgling club are three legends of South Australian soccer in coach John Kosmina, assistant coach and captain Aurelio Vidmar plus club president Basil Scarsella.

Adelaide United's first three games have been postponed until later in the season to allow the club to fully prepare both on and off the field. The club's debut will be against Brisbane Strikers on Friday 17 October at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide.

The National Soccer League continues to receive support from corporate partners Qantas, Channel 7, official match ball suppliers Mitre and referees strip manufacturers Lotto (New Zealand).

Channel 7 will again broadcast the Grand Final 'live', provide coverage of the Finals Series and will later this year, for a minimum of 20 weeks, screen a weekly 30 minute program, featuring NSL highlights. Pay television arrangements are yet to be finalised.

## WAITE KNIGHTED

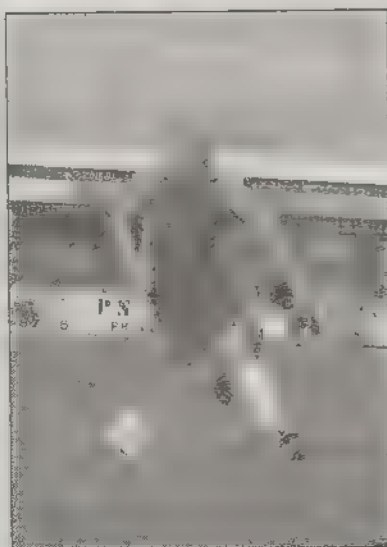
Melbourne Knights completed the signing of Frankston Pines striker Nick Waite last week prior to their first match the Marconi Stallions at home.

The powerful centre-forward has been interesting several Belgian clubs, including Mouscron, after an outstanding season in the Victorian Premier League.

Waite, currently managed by ex Socceroo Eddie Krncevic, could well spend one year in Australia before jetting off to Europe where Krncevic is believed to have built strong links in Belgium.

The Frankston Pines surprised many this year in the Victorian Premier League after finishing runners up in this year's Grand-Final.

Look to see Waite as being one of the stars of the Knights under new coach Ian Dobson this season.



Nick Waite has signed with the Melbourne Knights this year.

## KINGZ SIGN AUSSIE STRIKER



Wanting to get his career back on track with the Kingz is youngster Tallan Martin.

It didn't take long for Ken Dugdale to see the hunger that had returned to the eyes of striker Tallan Martin.

The former NSWIS, AIS, Newcastle United, and Wollongong Wolves striker has signed for the New Zealand outfit, and has set himself a number of goals.

"I want to prove the doubters wrong, I want to score goals for Ken and my team-mates, and I want Frank Fanna to know that I am ready to return to representative football," said the 20-year-old from Sydney's west. "If I can maintain my progress, I can be ready for Athens 2004" added the former U17 representative.

Martin signed with the Kingz, giving Dugdale an impressive array of striking options.

Martin has looked impressive alongside the experienced Paul Harnes, and with another striker due from the Kingz-Chelsea link, all of a sudden the Kingz are starting to turn heads again.

"Ken is a great coach and the boys are all working hard under him", said Martin.

Another beneficiary of the move, will be Illawarra club Cringila Lions, where Martin played during the winter. Cringila have entered into a unique arrangement with Martin's managers Zenith Football Management, developing local talent and providing Sydney-based players to supplement their Illawarra campaign. They also receive a share of any ongoing money in the likely event that the Kingz move Martin overseas.

## EAGLES RETURN FROM MAN UTD TOUR

The U17 season finished last week and it will be one to remember for the Parramatta Eagles team since it included their successful tour to the UK, hosted at the world class Carrington Training Centre, the home of the Manchester United Academy.

Thanks to the support of British Airways the group was able to fly directly to Manchester, where they stayed for three weeks in hotel accommodation close to Old Trafford and the Academy. On arrival our Tour Host, Jim Ryan, Head of Youth world wide for Manchester United, took the boys around the breathtaking Academy complex that would be home for training and games over the next days and weeks. The attention to detail and friendly atmosphere provided by the club was impressive, especially as they were preparing for the start of the English and European season.

After training sessions with some of United's leading staff coaches the squad travelled to Liverpool, where they took on Everton. Despite being decimated by a virus, the squad included 14-year-old Taro Konno in the starting line up and PESA put on an impressive display, going down to a late penalty 0-1. Midfield dynamo Breagan O'Connor was outstanding.

Next up, the two-hour road trip to Nottingham Forest's impressive Academy facility. This ended with a football lesson, as one of England's leading Academy programs showed us how to play at this level. Ben Panecassio was outstanding in goal while Forest went on to win 3-0.

Manchester United provided the opposition next, the first of two games to be played against the boys under close watch from Francisco Filho, United's U17 coach. After going a goal behind, Canberra's Andrew Barisic equalized before Elliot Barsby put Parramatta in front and Breagan O'Connor sealed an outstanding 3-1 result, with James Lowery and Evan Berger impressive and an outstanding effort from the back four.

The long road trip to Edinburgh at festival time was next, with an uncompromising game against Hibernian that saw Liam Fuggle and an own goal earn the Eagles a well-deserved draw against the SPL Academy. Afterwards, the Australians saw first hand the passion of a local derby as Hibs played Hearts in

in order to challenge for the Champions League. It is our responsibility to make sure we can help the best players in Oceania achieve their potential."

The highlight of the tour, away from training and games, was the invitation by Sir Alex Ferguson for the touring party to watch first-team training. To see five-a-side played at such high intensity and with great quality was a rare opportunity, enhanced by a talk to the players from Sir Alex Ferguson and an after match photo session with some of the world's leading players.

As the boys headed back on BA009 the two keepers moved into digs to start their experience as Academy players for a week. In session one the squad included Diego Forlan, John O'Shea, Eric Djemba Djemba and Kieron Richardson, while later in the week they trained under Tony Coton with Fabien Barthez, Tim Howard, Roy Carroll and Ricardo.

### PESA Academy Director

#### Tony Walmsley quotes:

"As a benchmarking operation the tour was incredible, not only to see the level of Academy players and training programs at United and other top clubs, but to get a first hand look and feel for how we can implement the United methods in Oceania."

The coaches at United were fantastic and gave freely their time and vision for youth development. By adopting the elements that we have been given and have seen in operation we can enhance our unique development program in Sydney and at our affiliate centres. United are scouring the world for unique talent and need the best players



The young Parramatta Eagles U17 side with Manchester United's head coach Sir Alex Ferguson.



# National Soccer League



After Round 1	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A		
BRISBANE STRIKERS	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1		
NEWCASTLE UTD	1	1	0	0	0	2	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1		
SYDNEY UNITED	1	1	0	0	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0		
MARCONI STALLIONS	1	0	1	0	0	1	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1		
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	1	0	1	0	0	1	1		1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PARRAMATTA POWER	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SOUTH MELBOURNE	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		
PERTH GLORY	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
FOOTBALL KINGZ	1	0	0	1	0	1	2		1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	1	0	0	1	0	0	1		1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
NORTHERN SPIRIT	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0		
OLYMPIC SHARKS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
ADELAIDE UNITED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

**WOLLONGONG WOLVES** .....0  
**SYDNEY UNITED** .....1  
*(J Vrkic 19' pen)*

Referee: Matthew Breeze. Crowd: 2,346. Venue: WIN Stadium.

**Teams:** WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Crews, Dragas, Jurilj, Hawrysiuk, Lyons (Austin 69'), Arrarte, Balabanel, Young ©, DeGiovanniello, Wells (Hughes 75'), Blake.

**Subs Not Used:** Timpano, Whalan (gk)

**SYDNEY UNITED:** Reddy, Haliti (Nohra 78'), M Santalab, Cunico, Vrkic, Langdon, Huxley, Babic (Ozbey 67'), Collina, Heffernan, Ivanic (Zmire 83').

**Subs Not Used:** Nestevski (gk).

**Cautions:** A Hughes (WW) 88', D Collina (SU) 13', M Santalab (SU) 24', D Huxley (SU) 43', P Ivanic (SU) 76'.

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS** .....1  
*(Pelikan 46)*  
**MARCONI STALLIONS** .....1  
*(Maloney 27)*

Referee: Craig Zetter. Crowd: 2,205. Venue: Knights Stadium.

**Teams:** MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: (3-5-2) John, Pantelidis, Piorkowski, Kovacic (Leijer 65'), Vargas R (c), Pelikan (Natsioulas 72'), Silic, Vargas A (Oksuz 90'), Radzov, Buljan, Fa'arodo. Sub not used: Hrehoresen (GK).

**MARCONI STALLIONS:** (4-4-2) Turnbull (Alogdellis 11), Casserly, Longo, Costanzo, Renaud, Maloney (c), Brosque, Last, Carle (Todd 55'), Spiteri, Harris (Gibson 84'). Sub not used: Thwaite.

**Cautions:** Longo (MS) 19, Kovacic (MK) 40, Pelikan (MK) 52, Harris (MS) 59.

**Red Cards:** (none)

**PARRAMATTA POWER** .....0  
**SOUTH MELBOURNE** .....0

Referee: Simon Micallef. Crowd: 1,867. Venue: Parramatta Stadium.

**Teams:** PARRAMATTA POWER: Bolton, Durante, Ceccoli (C), Colosimo, Beauchamp, Thompson (Sobczyk 85'), Gumpecht, Milicic (Dodd 66'), Rech, Buonavoglia (Zorbas 75'), Elrich.

**Subs Not Used:** Vukovic (gk)

**SOUTH MELBOURNE:** Galekovic, Osman, Storey, Durakovic (Poutakidis 18'), Kovacevic, Coveny (c) (Curcija 83'), Boutisianis (Lohy 83'), Stergiopoulos, Lia, Murdocca, Tunbridge.

**Subs Not Used:** Theoklitos (gk)

**Cautions:** S Colosimo (PP) 28', A Durante (PP) 52'.

**FOOTBALL KINGZ** .....1  
*(H Ngata 88')*  
**NEWCASTLE UNITED** .....2  
*(E Masi 19', J Wheelhouse 29')*

Referee: Derek Rugg. Crowd: 2,304. Venue: Ericsson Stadium.

**Teams:** AUCKLAND KINGZ: Utting, Rayner, Collins, Tambouras, Jackson (c), Christie, Campbell (Martin 55'), Rowley (Seaman 55'), Young, Harries (Ngata 74'), Beldham.

**Subs Not Used:** Nicholson (gk)

**NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Willis, A Griffiths, Thomas, Owens, R Griffiths, Johnson, Tsekenis, Blagojevic, Wheelhouse, Masi, Brown.

**Subs Not Used:** Wilson, Mitchell, Wolfenden, Perosh (gk)

**Cautions:** J Rowley (FK) 29', J Christie (FK) 42', S Thomas (NU) 88'.

**NORTHERN SPIRIT** .....1  
*(J Hutchinson 53')*  
**BRISBANE STRIKERS** .....3  
*(L Morley 15', 45', J Rose 62')*

Referee: Con Diomis. Crowd: 2,971. Venue: Pittwater Park.

**Teams:** NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, O'Sullivan, Spencer, Tobin, Tomasevic, Ferguson, Richter, Hutchinson, Petrie (Obied 78'), Wilkinson, Milligan (Kwasnik 46').

**Subs Not Used:** Osman, Hunter, Rex (gk).

**BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Kearton, Dodd, Stefanutto, McCloughan, McLaren, Gneron, Fitzsimmons, Pilic (Brain 82'), McKay, Rose, Morley.

**Subs Not Used:** Webber, Dreger, Higgins (gk).

**Cautions:** N Spencer (NS) 86', V Tomasevic (NS) 92', S Stefanutto (BS) 47'.

## PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Clint Bolton - Power Custodian kept a clean sheet against South Melbourne last week.

## ROUND 2

Wed 19-11-03

Adelaide United vs Parramatta Power

Fri 26-09-03

Newcastle United vs Northern Spirit

Sat 27-09-03

Brisbane Strikers vs Sydney Olympic

Sat 27-09-03

Marconi Stallions vs Wollongong Wolves

Sun 28-09-03

Perth Glory vs Melbourne Knights

Sun 28-09-03

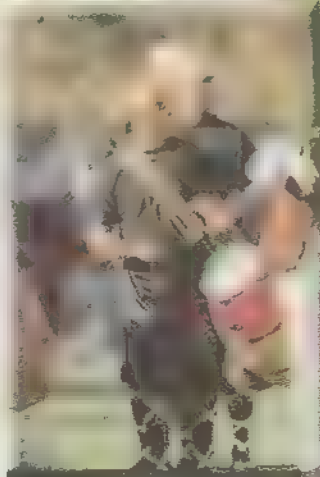
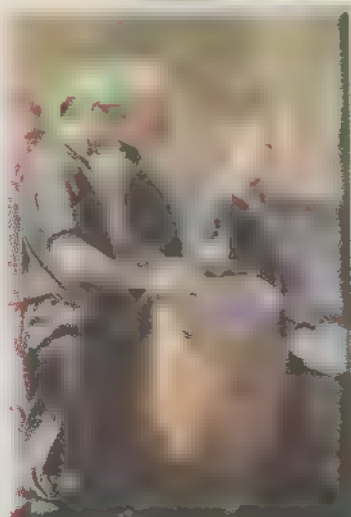
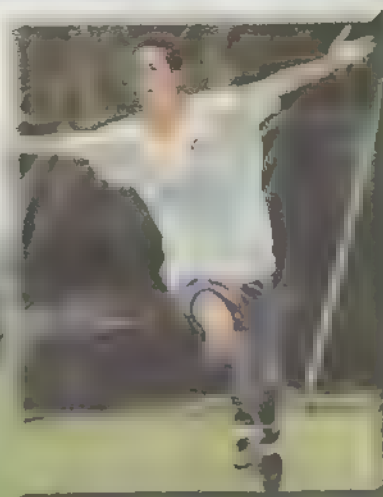
Sydney United vs Football Kingz

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
Luke Morley	Brisbane	2
Joshua Rose	Brisbane	1
John Hutchinson	N.Spirit	1
Jobe Wheelhouse	Newcastle	1
Esala Masi	Newcastle	1
Harry Ngata	Kingz	1
Anthony Penkan	Melb Knights	1
Brad Maloney	Marconi	1
Joe Vrkic	Sydney Utd	1

BYE - PERTH GLORY

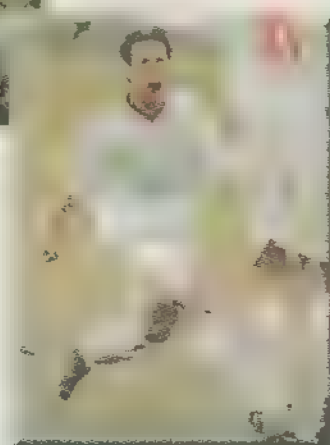
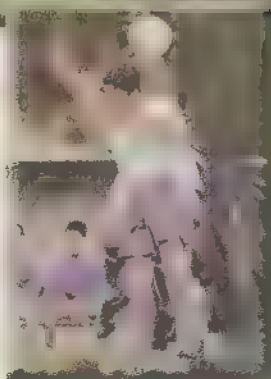
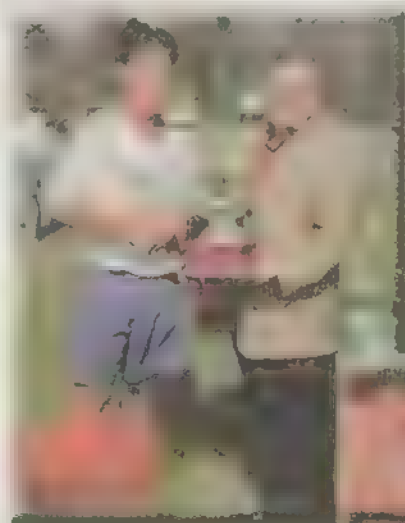
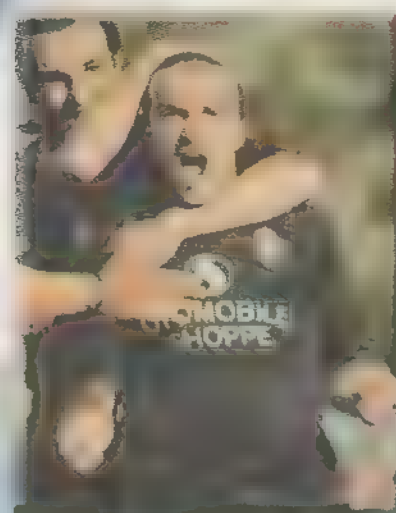
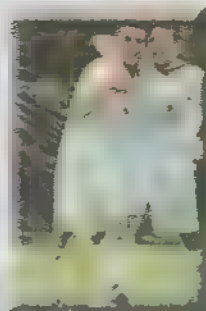
# 2003 Super Grand Final



*Images by Carlos Furtado*

# er League

## lift-out



# from the dressing sheds



by Mark Stavroulakis

## ADELAIDE UNITED ANNOUNCE TRIAL MATCHES



Soccer Australia has sanctioned two trial games for the Adelaide United FC.

The new club coached by Johnny Kosmina has been busily training with help from Assistant Coach and player Aurelio Vidmar last week. It is believed that several ex-Adelaide City Force members will sign for the club while a handful of South Australia's finest stars in the local Premier League will also be wearing the new colours of Adelaide.

Look to see 2 high profile former National League stars sign on as well

Sunday 21st September  
Adelaide United Vs South  
Australian State Team  
3.00pm KO -  
Golden Grove Reserve  
Milne Road Golden Grove.  
Full catering facilities  
available

Sunday 28th September  
Adelaide United Vs  
Campbelltown City  
3.00pm KO -  
Newton Sports Field  
Stradbroke Road, Newton

## PERIN APPOINTED ADELAIDE FOOTBALL MANAGER

Adelaide United Football Club appointed John Perin as its Football Manager last week joining John Kosmina (senior coach) and Aurelio Vidmar (Captain-assistant coach) in the formation of the coaching structure for the new Club.

John Perin had a distinguished career with Adelaide City in the National Soccer League in its formative inaugural season back in 1977, followed by appearances for the Socceroos in the late sixties and early seventies when he was a part of the 1970 World Cup squad. In 1995 Perin was appointed



Adelaide United's new  
Football manager -  
Johnny Perin.

senior coach of Adelaide City Force and was National Soccer League coach of the year that same year

"John Perin's appointment as the Club's Football Manager is consistent with Adelaide United's objective to use South Australian talent. The position is a vital role in the embryonic stages of the Club and we are delighted John (who is an icon of South Australian Soccer) has agreed to join us." President, Mr Basil Scarsella said.

"John Perin is a great character, he knows the game inside out and will be a big asset to the coaching staff." Coach, John Kosmina said.

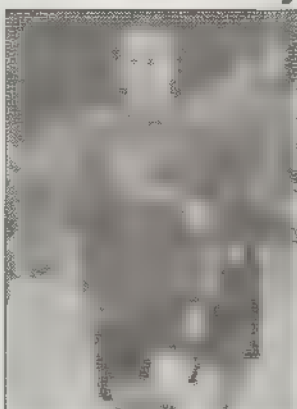
## CLUBS CONTINUE NSL TREND OF "RAPING" FEEDER CLUBS

While we all know the NSL clubs are mostly short of a buck or two, they continue to try and avoid good player development practice, and seize players from State League clubs, without any consideration of compensation.

There are many options available to NSL clubs to try and work with State League clubs, but to ignore them, offer them peanuts, and expect that they can ignore other clubs' efforts in developing players is not on.

## BRISBANE STRIKERS LOOKING TO SIGN ANDY PACKER

Brisbane Strikers have joined Adelaide United in their interest in midfielder Andrew Packer. The former Sydney Olympic championship winner has returned to Australia after



'Pac-Man' is a wanted man  
from the Strikers but could  
well don the new jersey of  
Adelaide United.

extensive trials overseas and is ready to resume his career in the NSL.

Brisbane player-coach Stuart McLaren is keen to add Queensland Packer to his squad and is understood to be discussing the deal with his board.

Adelaide coach John Kosmina is also interested, but it's understood the United board would prefer to keep their squad strictly all-South Australian

## NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE REFEREES PANEL ANNOUNCED

Australia's World Cup referee Mark Shield heads a panel of 14 referees appointed for the 2003/04 National Soccer League season. Shield, the reigning Lotto NSL referee of the year, controlled three games at the FIFA Confederations Cup in France during the off season and follows his appearance at the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Korea/Japan.

New to the panel for this season are Sydney's Simon Przydacz, and

Newcastle based James Lewis, who have been appointed on a permanent basis after impressing during the recent International Soccer Challenge held in Adelaide and also during occasional appearances last season in the NSL.

A/National Director of Referees, Barry Such, said that the National Referees Commission (NRC) had accepted the recommendation of the National Coaching Panel that the duo have their roles extended from the odd game they controlled last season.

"We have to have an eye on the future and in making this recommendation the panel is also mindful that a couple of the established referees may have or will soon indicate a possible retirement option," Such said

Such also said that the recent International Soccer Challenge for international under-20 teams had lifted the performance bar for established NSL referees Peter Green and Angelo Nardi who are both now ready for a strong season

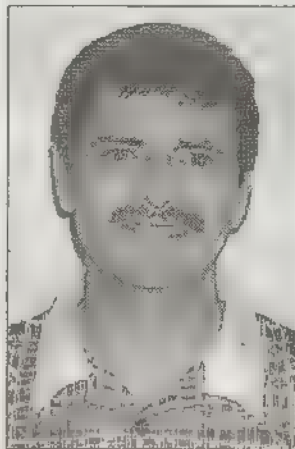
"If you couple these referees with the likes of Ben Williams from Canberra whom is going into his second season we can see that the established referees have some genuine competition which in itself creates a healthy environment," says Such.

The National Coaching Panel will also be monitoring the performances in the State League of Nathan Rice from Newcastle who had also impressed in Adelaide.

"Nathan will be part of continual viewing list along with Lewis Giuseffi from Victoria, Jonathan Streater from NSW, and Sam Hasic from South Australia," Such said. "We are hoping that arrangements can be made for Nathan to keep himself match fit with a few games in the NSW (Summer) Premier League."

Such said that Adelaide's International Soccer Challenge is set to become an important part of the referee development process for many years to come.

"The organisers of the tournament have told me that they were very happy with what we did during the week long tournament and that next year it will be expanded," he said.



Eddie Lennie is one of  
fourteen referees appointed  
for this season's  
National League.

"Although the number of referees on the National League Panel really rest on the size of the League, competitions like the International Soccer Challenge increased the level of experience and opportunities."

The full list of referees confirmed by the NRC as part of the panel for the upcoming season is:

Mark Shield (QLD), Peter Green (QLD), James Lewis (NNSW), Matthew Breeze (NSW), Con Diomis (NSW), Brett Hugo (NSW), Simon Micallef (NSW), Simon Przydacz (NSW), Ben Williams (ACT), Perry Mur (Vic), Craig Zetter (SA), Eddie Lennie (WA), Angelo Nardi (WA), Derek Rugg (NZ).

## SOCCER AUSTRALIA BOARD TO CONSIDER OPTIONS ON STRUCTURE OF SOCCER

The acting chief executive officer of Soccer Australia, Mr Richard Johnson, said today the new board of Soccer Australia had agreed yesterday to consider a number of options for restructuring the game.

The board reviewed several reports by independent advisers on the financial and structural status of Soccer Australia and decided more work was necessary to establish the best way forward.

"Over the next week we will discuss the options with a number of parties, including the Australian Sports Commission and the Federal Government," he said.

"The discussions with Government will focus on what financial assistance is necessary to enable the new board to deliver on the recommendations of the Crawford Report and take the game forward.

"Once those discussions are complete the new board will be able to make a final decision and expects to make the details of any plans public within a week or so."

## ROBBIE SLATER TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

Former Qantas Socceroo, Blackburn Rovers, Southampton, West Ham and Lens player Robbie Slater is set to launch his new web site, [www.robbslater.com](http://www.robbslater.com)

The site will launch today, Sunday 21 September (AEST) and is set to give the Australian public a new insight into the world of football

Robbie played in the green and gold of Australia on 44 occasions, debuting against Rangers in 1984. He made his last Qantas Socceroo appearance in 1997 against Saudi Arabia, and has since turned his knowledge of the game to television commentary, coaching and presenting. Robbie returned to Australia after a successful decade in top-flight European football, to captain the Northern Spirit Football club in its debut season in 1998. He ended his playing career shortly after to focus his talent at FOX SPORTS

The website will differ from the average soccer site in that although it will give you all the news from the world of football it will also give you an insight to the world game from an Australian perspective with columnists such as Graham Arnold, Ian Crook, Phil Moss and Robbie himself giving the site their input on a regular basis

The new look [www.robbslater.com](http://www.robbslater.com) will include guest columnists, photos, competitions, giveaways, downloadable goodies and of course the latest up to date football news.



## photooftheweek



## NSW SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

# CHAMPIONS!

## Crescent Star Eclipse Dragons

	<b>Sydney Crescent Star</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Fraser Park Dragons</b>	<b>2</b>

**S**ydney Crescent Star were crowned the 2003 Winter Super League champions after a late header from midfielder Phillip Marzec gave them an historic 3-2 win over arch rivals Fraser Park.

In front of a full house at Hajduk Stadium, Marzec pushed his way in between Alex Leris and Scott Wells to deftly nod home a cross from Joe Bruni to give his club a coveted Premiership/Championship double.

While the climactic moment was undoubtedly Marzec's winning goal, a bizarre incident just before his header proved to be the main talking point.

Defender Hassan Al-Kozai sent off for deliberately handling the ball, when he jumped up Australian Rules style and caught a cross from Greg Collins just outside the penalty box. With the dangerous Tony Faria lurking unmarked

behind Al-Kozai, his decision to jump vindicated when Bruni raced forward from the very next play to deliver the ball to Marzec for the winner.

"It was a spur of the moment decision to take the ball and it certainly wasn't planned" said Al-Kozai.

"I knew I had no chance to catch Faria if the ball had gone over my head and knew I had to do whatever I could to ensure we kept him out."

Desperate times require desperate measures, Al-Kozai blotting an otherwise impressive performance with the dismissal.

For Fraser Park that moment proved a turning point in their fortunes. They had been revived by Faria on 65 minutes when he danced through a couple of poor defenders to lash a left footed shot beyond Steve Tolios and into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

Their first half had been excellent but at 1-0 up and deep into injury time they had allowed Crescent Star an equaliser when some slack marking allowed makeshift striker Yavus Ekinci some space to peel off an excellent volley.

The Dragons superiority in possession and shots on goal were not reflected in the scoreline.

Their second half was little better. They conceded a penalty when goalkeeper Steve Angelov downed Terry Atsas as the striker tried to round him.

But, when Farias goal threw them a lifeline, Fraser Park responded by lifting the tempo, and dominating the later stages. The Dragons' inability to finish costing them dearly.

"We failed to take our chances and that's that," said coach Ian Gillan.

"We had three times as many shots on goal as they did in the first half and we go to the break at 1-1, that is where the game was won and lost."

Without star striker Tanju Balabanel and midfielder Devrim Huseyin, the Crescent Star machine really didn't click into gear until the first twenty minutes of the second half and even then it looked well short of it's often-brilliant best.

While strikers Joe Bruni and Yavus Ekinci did try hard, the absence of Tanju Balabanel stuck out like the proverbial, their quick counter attacking style thwarted by some energetic defending from Fraser Park.

Playing a deeper role, Fraser's back three of Scott Wells, Alex Leris and Philip Gregorace allowed Crescent Star the space to move the ball, and then defended their back third with numbers.

On the counterattack they moved the ball quickly through Greg Collins, deputising for the suspended Martin Bourke, and Tony Faria, who caught the Crescent Star defence out on a number of occasions.

Manny Papageorgiou and Mark Guerreiro relishing the open spaces, but apart from the first goal when Guerrero put away a diving header their hard work went largely unrewarded.

"Full credit to Crescent Star - they



The face says it all: Phillip Marzec celebrates his surprise winner

have been the best team all year and they proved it again today," continued Gillan.

"While I felt we were clearly the better side in a footballing sense, they took their chances when they presented themselves and any side who make the most of their opportunities deserves to win."

Crescent Star fans celebrated their historic double along with club captain Yavus Ekinci, who was the deserved recipient of the Man of the Match Award.



Yavus Ekinci controls a bouncing ball: the Sydney Crescent Star captain picked up a well-earned Man-of-the-Match award.



Mark Guerreiro scored with a brilliant diving header.

**SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR:** Steve Tolios, Evangelos Petrotos, Phillip Marzec, Terry Atsas, Yavus Ekinci, Volkan K. Gokce, Onur 89, Hassan Al-Kozai (sent off), Joseph Bruni, Taylan Devrim, Ankar Oygur, Hussein Jomaa, Joni Oghen, Coach: Yash Ozdenak.

**FRASER PARK DRAGONS:** Steve Angelov, Alex Leris, Scott Wells, Philip Gregorace, Paolo Olivera, Mark Guerreiro, Bel Pappas, Grant Mayberry, 82, Emanuel Papageorgiou, Greg Collins, Antonio Faria, A. J. Markopoulos, David Cuda, Coach: Ian Gillan.

**Division Two Grand Final**  
**Greystanes**

**V**  
**Camden Tigers**

**3.00pm**

**Sunday**

**28th September**

**at Francis Park, Blacktown**

**New Youth**  
**League teams**

**2004**

**See Page 25**

## ...INSIDE...

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- NSW Youth League Grand Finals .....P24
- NSW Youth League Grand Finals .....P25
- Champion of Champions .....P26

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## FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



### 'Shovel' Joins Berries

Former Wollongong City defender David 'Shovel' Cervinski has made headlines this week signing a one-year deal to play the 2003/4 Premier League season with Canterbury-Marickville.

A member of the Melbourne Knights glamour team of the early 1990's, Cervinski went on to play with Carlton, Gombak in Singapore and then the Wolves where he has been for the past four seasons. Coach Greg Woodhouse very excited at his acquisition.

"He has been one of the best defenders in the National league for the past decade and it is very exciting to have him in Canterbury colors," said Woodhouse.

"In actual fact, his signing came via one of our former players in George Nohra who suggested he might be worth talking to".

Having lost a couple of key defenders in Tom Maric and Michael West, Cervinski will slot right in at centre back for the club. The Berries held their first training session for the new season at Brighton beach on Sunday with Woodhouse reporting his squad looked keen and enthusiastic despite the warm conditions. Those back in harness included Alan Picken, a new slimline Leigh Gunn, Cormack Begley and Ben Price.

Notable absentees were John Kyriazopoulos who is recovering from a groin injury and Michael O'Riley whose knee problems will see him sidelined until the second round of the season and Paul Bourke who is currently holidaying in Queensland.

### Movement at Melita

Parramatta Eagles new boss Trevor Morgan has also started to assemble his squad in preparation for their first training session this week. Retained from last years list is recently married midfielder Matthew O'Shea, defender Mark Reveley and midfielders Ben Delicata, Daniel Borg and Anthony Mittiga.

Joining the squad are youngsters Matthew Clowes (ex Sydney United), Victor Costabile (ex Wollongong Wolves and Australian Under 17 youth international), Matthew Rosier (once on the books of Southampton in the UK) and goalkeeper Peter Munsie (from Macarthur Rams).

"Our budget is not as large as some other clubs but I am very confident we have retained five senior players who will form an excellent base for us to develop some competitive youngsters" said Morgan. The Eagles are negotiating with a number of other prominent players with announcements expected soon.

### Senior Dragons

The aftermath of the Grand Final for Fraser Park Dragons was not a pretty one with their dressing room an understandably sombre place at the conclusion of the match.

With rumours abounding that Crescent Star are to be promoted to the Premier League the Dragons are left to contemplate what might have been, missing out on the Premiership by one competition point and going oh-so-close in the Grand Final.

While coach Ian Gillan is yet to decide his future, there are already a flood of offers for some of their best stars including Tony Faria and Scott Wells.

And any Premier League coach looking to pick up a quality player should look no further than Greg Collins who was again a stand-out.

### Another Grand Final

Soccer desperados looking for a fix this weekend should wander out to Francis Park, Blacktown on Sunday for the Second Division Grand Final between Camden Tigers and Greystanes.

Despite winning the league, Camden had to do it the hard way, beaten by Greystanes in the Major Semi-Final, they had to go to penalties to defeat a plucky Concord side to secure their spot.

With their coach Eddie Briscoe currently overseas for work commitments, it was a tremendous result and sets up the season decider nicely as both Camden and Greystanes like to play attacking football.

A couple of players to keep an eye on are Greg King and Richard Harrison for Camden, and a young striker by the name of Erel for Greystanes.

### Prentice Starts Well

Congratulations to debutante coach Andrew Prentice on taking his under 21's Hakoah side into the Division Two Grand Final next Sunday.

After 400 plus games in state league, Prentice has even donned the gloves a couple of times in emergencies this year, but it's the challenge of coaching a side that has the former Ryde City goalkeeper excited.

"He has made the transition to coaching very well and the team responds well to his ideas and enthusiasm for the game" said Hakoah boss Tony Dunn.

### Hard Labour

FTS gets some interesting press releases come across his desk from time to time and, while some are a bit light on for quality, few beat this one.

60 Volunteers from the Bonnyrigg White Eagles recently installed a new drainage system at the Serbian Centre. Over 48 hours of tough manual labor was involved.

All volunteers were fed and watered by the Club and a great time was had by all.

"Bonnyrigg White Eagles wish to thank all the participants for their loyal and great help", said club secretary Jack Cirjanic.

## THE GRAND FINAL BLOW BY BLOW

### FIRST HALF

**1st min** - A quickstart sees Bruni denied with a quickshot from just outside the area.

**6th min** - Frasers first move forward sees Collins head over the bar.

**9th min** - Bruni again tries his luck from distance, the shot well wide to the right.

**12th min** - Markopoulos lays a beautiful longball for Papageorgiou to run onto. He draws in Askin Oygur and send an inch perfect cross to the near post for Guerrero to throw his head at the ball and send it crashing into the back of the net, 1-0 Fraser Park.

**15th min** - Bruni lays off a nice ball to Ekinici at the near post but his shot sprays over the bar.

**16th min** - Freekick to Fraser Park just outside the area is taken by Papageorgiou. The shot cannons into the wall with the bobbling ball seized on by Wells whose shot is saved by a diving Tolios to his left, and the ball is scrambled away by Oygur.

**18th min** - A great individual run from Faria sees him lash a shot from the edge of the area. Tolios makes the save with Petrovski putting the resulting followup shot over the bar.

**23rd min** - Mazy run from Guerrero from deep beating two defenders and laying off a nice pass for Papageorgiou. But he strikes off balance and shoots well over the bar.

**30th min** - Another individual run from Guerrero but he is fouled by Al-Kozai right on the edge of the area. Referee Prydzacz awards a freekick and gives Al-Kozai a yellow card. Tame freekick from Wells easily saved by Tolios.

**31st min** - Philip Gregorace issues a clumsy challenge on Philip Marzec right on the halfway line and picks up a yellow card.

**37th min** - Kir tries his luck from just outside the area but his shot is miskicked and bobbles away well to the left of the goalmouth.

**39th min** - Petrovski pushes forward and unleashes a powerful drive, which is blocked by Tolios and trails away for a corner.

**41st min** - Referee Prydzacz rules Bruni offside in a lineball decision when he breaks quickly to chase a Marzec through-ball.

**42nd min** - Tolios again denies Fraser Park, this time Faria who tries his luck from a tight angle after the Crescent Star defence was opened up by a throughball from Collins.

**44th min** - Tame header by Faria at the back post from a Papageorgiou cross is directed straight at Tolios and easily saved.

**45th min** - A dangerous cross from the right is well cut out by an advancing Tolios with Papageorgiou lurking unmarked at the back post.

### Injury Time

**2nd min** - A frustrated Collins tries a long distance shot in traffic but it sails well over the bar.

**4th min** - Ekinici on the end of a lovely ball from Atsas, buries the first time volley from the edge of the area. Score now 1-1.

### SECOND HALF

**54th min** - Unal Ogmen booked for a physical challenge on Faria just outside the penalty box.

**55th min** - Crescent Star turn defence into attack breaking quickly from the Fraser Park freekick to race upfield. Atsas the recipient of an Ekinici longball is bought down by Angelov when attempting to round the advancing goalkeeper. Referee Prydzacz left with no option but to award a penalty and issue a yellow card to Angelov. Wells also carded for disputing the decision.

**56th min** - Petratos takes the spot kick drolling it low and hard to the bottom left hand corner, sending Angelov the wrong way with a little shimmy. 2-1 to Crescent Star.

**57th min** - Ekinici booked for a clumsy challenge on Gregorace.

**58th min** - Encouraging buildup through the midfield from Fraser Park sees Faria try his luck from just outside the box but it sails away wide to the left of the goalmouth.

**60th min** - Ekinici uses his speed to beat Lens on the right hand side but runs out of room and shoots from a tight angle into the side netting.

**65th min** - Faria dances through a couple of very lame challenges to successfully go one on one with an advancing Tolios. His left foot shot finding the right hand corner of the net. 2-2.

**65th min** - Crescent Star bring on Jomaa for Oygur, shifting Kir to the right and Devnmol into defence. Fraser coach Ian Gillan brings on Oliveno for Gregorace who runs out of petrol.

**73rd min** - Marzec unable to control the bobbling ball and his shot sails well over the bar.

**74th min** - Al-Kozai brings down Guerrero on the edge of the area. The freekick taken by Faria sails over the crossbar by a matter of inches.

**75th min** - Faria makes great space down the left-hand side, getting in behind Petratos but can only dribble a shot when pressed.

**76th min** - Referee Prydzacz issues Jomaa a yellow card for a late tackle on Markopoulos.

**78th min** - Kir makes a great run down the right and cuts infield but overdrives at the vital moment and the loose ball is cleaned up by a quick thinking Angelov.

**82nd min** - Gillan swaps Petrovski for the fresh legs of Mayberry.

**83rd min** - Leris diffuses a potentially sticky situation for Fraser Park when he tackles Marzec in a goalmouth scramble and clears.

**86th min** - Collins send a long through ball from the right hand side looking for an unmarked Faria in behind the Crescent Star defence. Al-Kozai throws his hands up and catches the ball rather spectacularly to deny Faria the chance. Referee Prydzacz left with no choice but to issue a red card.

**87th min** - Fraser take the freekick - a tame shot by Collins well saved by Tolios. From the clearing kick Bruni takes the ball down the right hand touchline stretching the Fraser Park defence. He sends in a neat cross to the near post, met by Marzec who deftly puts it beyond an outstretched Angelov and into the bottom left hand corner of the net.



Bonnyrigg White Eagles supporters poses for a group shot following their working bee



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## NSW GRAND FINAL PLAYER RATINGS



### Sydney Crescent Star

**Steve Tolios - 8/10** A strong match from the ever-reliable Tolios. Did well to block a couple of late one-on-one efforts from the Fraser Park strikers, effectively saving the day for Crescent Star.

**Evangelos Petratos - 8/10** Was solid at the back, and added some flair further up the pitch with regular forays, particularly in the second half. A vital contributor to the championship win, and really earned his medal.

**Filip Marzec - 8/10** The giant utility player battled hard in midfield throughout the match and did magnificently well to convert a half-chance into the winning goal.

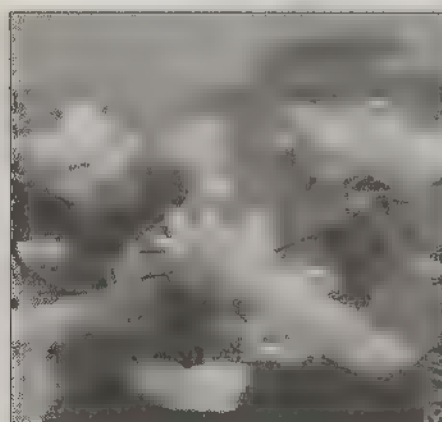
**Terry Atsas - 7/10** Atsas buzzed around the park and seemed to have a hand in everything. Was very quick and effective on the break, but his accuracy in passing could have been better at times.



*Petratos jumps for joy after netting his penalty*



*Phillip Marzec scored the winner*



*The mobile Eckinci had a mobile and effective game for Crescent Star*

**Yavuz Eckinci - 9/10** Earned his man-of-the-match prize with a gutsy, tenacious display. The captain stood tall throughout the game, encouraging teammates when heads dropped after Fraser's equaliser, and was very creative in attack.

**Volkan Kir - 7/10** Confident on the ball and defensively capable, but didn't have a particularly strong match otherwise. Kir could have done more, but did show some flashes of quality play at times.

**Hassan Al Kozai - 5/10** Sent off in the latter stages for what could only be described as cynical gamesmanship. A pity, because he showed some assured skills in his defensive role earlier on, although was completely outstripped for pace by Faria several times.

**Joseph Bruni - 6/10** Battled away tirelessly, but wasn't given much room to do his thing, and could have done better with a few half chances. Not one of Bruni's more memorable games.

**Tayfun Devrimol - 7/10** A patchy performance from highly-rated Tayfun. Was strong in the tackle but his distribution was often poor.

**Askin Oygur - 6/10** Did reasonably well, although allowed the Fraser attack too much space at times. Sacrificed for more attacking thrust in the second half.

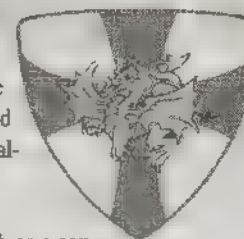
**Unal Ogmen - 7/10** Scurried up and down the right flank without a great deal to show for it, though he was involved in some eye-catching passages of play in the first half

#### SUBSTITUTES

**Hussein Jomaa - 4/5** Made an impact when he came off the bench, putting in some tough challenges and launching some very effective through balls.

**Gokce Oncu - 3/5** The youngster had about one minute to make an impression before the final whistle but, hey, he played his part in the winning side!

### Fraser Park Dragons



**Steve Angelov - 6/10** His foghorn voice reverberated around the ground, making it hard not to notice Steve. Generally, he had a good match, saving several shots and gobbling up crosses with ease. A late challenge cost his team a penalty

**Alex Leris - 7/10** The defender had a calm and confident game, though on a couple of occasions he should have cleared the ball more decisively instead of trying to play his way out of trouble.

**Scott Wells - 8/10** Had an excellent match in central defence, containing the vaunted Crescent Star strike force for most of the game. Was occasionally caught for pace, though

**Phillip Gregorace - 6/10** The youngster was reasonably solid and showed some classy ball skills at times. Was tactically substituted late in the match.

**Mark Guerreiro - 8/10** Did superbly well to score the opening goal, and continued to threaten Crescent Star throughout. Showed excellent control and a reasonable turn of pace.

**Bill Petrovski - 6/10** Enjoyed running at defenders, but sometimes allowed his creative spirit to wander too far. Could have done more to finish off the moves he started.

**Emmanuel Papageorgiou - 8/10** Was very effective with his penetrating runs down both flanks, and unlucky not to score a couple of times. Manny showed he is still one of the most valuable players in the Super League.

**Greg Collins - 7/10** Always a tough player to beat, Collins made life difficult for the Crescent Star midfield, and often set up attacking moves. Did pretty well in the middle of the park, but was subbed off towards the end

**Antonio Faria - 9/10** Just shaded for the man-of-the-match award by the opposing captain, Faria showed the qualities that have made him one of the most admired players in the league. Was ultra-fast, hard-working and deadly when zeroed in on goal.

**Archie Markopoulos 7/10** The lanky midfielder slaved away to produce something for the Dragons but luck wasn't really on his side. A creditable performance.

**David Cuda 7/10** A respectable showing from the strong defender - he did well to contain Bruni for most of the match.

#### Substitutes

**Clint Mayberry 3/5** Came on late in the second half without really adding much to the Fraser Park effort.

**Paolo Oliveira - 3/5** Struggled away when he came on, without having any effect on the result.



*Tony Faria's skill and sizzling pace almost tipped the match in Fraser Park's favour*



*Greg Collins had a robust match in the middle, causing Crescent Star a few headaches*



*Archie Markopoulos had a reasonable match for the runners-up*



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## UNDER 19 GRAND FINAL

# SYDNEY CS DEFEATS DOLPHINS

**S**ydney Crescent Star showed that it's not just their senior team that can win championships, taking out the Grade 19 Grand Final in fine style against Manly-Warringah Dolphins.

As is often the case, these Under-19 sides seemed a bit more attack-minded than their senior counterparts, resulting in an exciting match, brimming with skill and incident.

Crescent Star started at full throttle, pushing forward at every opportunity. Supported by hundreds of singing, chanting fans, they took the lead in the 6th minute.

The goal was stunner. Cihangir Ozer received the ball about 30 yards out from goal and sent a blistering shot into the bottom left-hand corner, giving Manly keeper Martin Hall no chance.

Crescent Star had the better of the

remainder of the first half, but couldn't put away any more goals until just after the start of the second period, when Selcuk Akar nodded home a high, looping cross.

This strike seemed to spark Manly into action, and they commenced a sustained period of pressure on the Crescent Star goalmouth.

The Dolphins pulled a goal back in bizarre fashion mid-way through the half. Crescent Star goalkeeper Steven Kljajic earned the ball to the edge of his penalty box in order to boot it upfield, but an assistant referee noted that he had brought the ball fractionally out of the goal area.

The free-kick was missed but re-taken due to an encroaching wall. At the second attempt, Jamie Collins drove it into the top corner of the net.

Manly continued to press for an

**SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR** Steven Kljajic, Mera, Ugur, Juan Arango, Cihangir Ozer, Ersin Arin, Ertunc Turk, Adem Kur, Cvasli, Gashi, Seha, Avc, 88, Mustafa Akca, Selcuk Akar, Sam Yilmaz  
**Coach** Taner Varol

**MANLY-WARRINGAH** Martin Hall, Nathan Parrot, Sam Mesiti, Henry Willis, Jamie Collins, Carlos Villazon, Argisht Sarkizians, 57, Roberto Hamad, Connor Siebe, Matthew Repetti, Liam Gough, Jan 79, Ashley Ryan, Flavio Fernandez, Jamie Gush, 69  
**Coach** Ron Lonsdale

**Referee** Kurt Arns  
**Assistant Referees** Darin Dewhurst, Sarah Ho

equaliser until the end, though they were nearly caught on the break by slippery Crescent Star player Sami Yilmaz, whose shot was well held by Hall.

Manly's best chance fell to Sam



Manly and Crescent Star battle for possession in the Under 19's Grand Final

Mesiti a couple of minutes before the final whistle. The talented Mesiti did well to get into a goal scoring position but cracked his shot just shy of the post.

In all, it was a deserved championship win for the boys from Sydney Crescent Star. They were best served by Ersin

Avni, Juan Arango and pacey striker Ertunc Turk. But the whole team kept their shape well and showed greater flair throughout the match - a promising sign for the future of the ambitious Lidcombe based club



Manly Warringah goalkeeper Martin Hall takes a high ball



A healthy crowd turned out to support Crescent Star in the early match

## Peter Gray Honoured

**F**ormer NSW Soccer Federation President, Peter Gray, was inducted into the Soccer Australia Hall of Fame for his contributions to the sport of Soccer in NSW and Australia.

"Peter's induction into the Hall of Fame has been a long overdue recognition of a sterling contribution to Australian Soccer," stated Soccer NSW President, Mr. Tom A. Dourmanis, following the announcement.

Formal recognition of Peter's efforts as one of the state's best known soccer personalities is fitting reward for a man who spent 41 years in Australian soccer as a player and administrator.

He played nine years as a goalkeeper in the 1960s for a number of NSW Soccer Federation clubs. Upon retirement he linked with the Cronulla Seagulls Junior club in 1975, becoming president two years later before earning the presidency of the Sutherland Sharks in the NSW State League. He was elected a Board member of the NSW Soccer Federation in 1986 and was president from 1991 to 2002.



Soccer NSW Director Jim Ronis (left) with Peter Gray (right) at the Hall of Fame Ceremony



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## GRADE 21 GRAND FINAL

# ELSID INSPIRES WANDERERS

**H**ajduk Wanderers won the 2003 Grade 21 Championship with a thrilling 3-1 win over AC United. In the final count, the Wanderers were just too clinical for a battling AC side, although this entertaining match could have gone either way.

The hero for Hajduk was feather-weight striker Elsid Barkhousir, who scored a classy double, and inspired his team-mates with some breathtaking attacks.

midfielder Luke Tate combined to create a couple of early chances that had AC reeling. But they couldn't find the final pass needed to beat a very solid United backline, lead by captain Charlie Monteleone and the indomitable Andrew Lecesin.

AC put on their shooting boots around the 20-minute mark, resulting in several scorching long-range efforts, including one from George Wakim that flew just over the bar.

Hajduk produced some good build-up

play in the first half, much of it started by their skilful captain and midfield general Taun Cao. One interchange lead to a chance for striker Jasen Stipicic, but he volleyed inches wide after a good cross from Dean Urosevski.

At the other end of the park, it took a great saving tackle from Wanderers fullback Stephen Scotti to deny a rampaging Wakim.

Play swung back and forth until Barkhousir snatched the lead with a clever chip shot just before the half time break. The nippy forward raced on to a through ball and drew the keeper before knocking the ball into an empty net.

AC came out firing in the secondhalf, inspired by a lecture from experienced coach Sam D'Alessandro. Their equaliser came just

after the break.

Stand-out forward Kris Holbrook was the creator, beating a couple of players on the left and rifling in a low shot that was only parried by Hajduk keeper Phillip Zabaks. The ball rolled to Luke Tate, who tapped in for a simple goal.

AC dominated for a time after the goal, marauding down the flanks through Urosevski and Cao, but the boys in blue were unable to put the game away and Hajduk regained their confidence.

The pace of Barkhousir up front was beginning to look decisive, as he stretched the AC defence time and again. The diminutive striker seemed unlucky not to be awarded a penalty, after he became entangled with Monteleone in the box, but referee Jim Nicolaou waved play on.

Hajduk regained the lead mid-way through the second half, after Barkhousir again sprinted through and beat the keeper, this time courtesy of an excellent through-ball from Tate.

The Wanderers sealed the win with a third goal not long afterwards, and it was a very similar effort to the other two. This time Cao was the provider and Stipicic the executioner.

They could have added a fourth near the end, but United goalkeeper Peter Akers produced a dramatic, twisting save to ward off Cao's goalbound shot.

AC refused to go down without a fight, scrapping for loose balls and continuing to push forward right until the final whistle.

They had one last chance to score in the last couple of minutes, when Phil Pylotis' free kick beat the wall, but Zabaks smothered the ball down low.

The Champions deserved their victory, and it was savoured by the large, noisy crowd. With AC hailing from just up the road in northern Fairfield, the match had the atmosphere of a closely-contested derby game, though it was never so intense the rival supporters couldn't have a laugh about it afterwards.

Both teams contain a core of very talented young players, some of whom will no doubt be playing regular first team football next season.

Barkhousir is clearly one to watch for the Wanderers, while the talented Taun Cao and Luke Tate are others who seem equipped to go all the way in Super League.

For the runners-up, star striker Kris Holbrook and former Marconi junior Lecesin did particularly well.

**AC UNITED:** Peter Akers, Michael Ojaita, David Rocco, Marc Mewra, Tom Chata, Monteleone, Phil Pylotis, Richard Demgo, Kris Holbrook, Denis Gonzalez, Matthew Sutton, Adrian Zumbo, George Wakim, Andrew Lecesin.  
**Coach:** Sam D'Alessandro

**Hajduk Wanderers:** Phillip Zabaks, Elsid Barkhousir, Dean Urosevski, Darren Damsen, Mike Fernando, Ante Midan, Jasen Stipicic, Matthew C'Jinnah, Stephen Scotti, Luke Tate, Sipan Popovic, Taun Cao.  
**Coach:** Bruce Tili

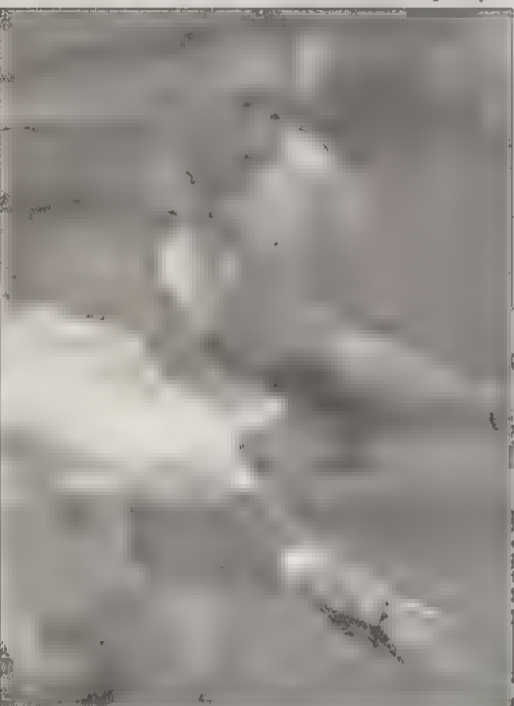
**Referee:** Jim Nicolaou  
**Assistant Referees:** David Finlay, Bruce Thomas



Hajduk Wanderers goalkeeper Phillip Zabaks deals with a bouncing ball in an unorthodox fashion



Elsid Barkhousir (left) clashes with AC United defender Matthew Sutton



AC striker Kris Holbrook had a strong game for the runners-up



AC United's Andrew Lecesin was a stand-out in defence

## YOUTH LEAGUE GRAND FINALS

by Barry Davis  
barrydavis@soccernsw.com.au

For the three division of Youth League this was the final weekend of the season, the decider, and what a weekend it proved to be. The Gabbie Stadium was a hive of activity on Saturday as was Christie Park on both days as the crowds flocked in to see the best of the best in each age group and division. If there was any doubt about the quality of Youth League soccer, this weekend has surely silenced all the knockers and confirmed that the future of Australian Soccer is in very good hands indeed. The S.S.I. Girls Youth League reached the Preliminary Final stage and next week we will be able to watch their Grand Finals on the main ground at Marconi Stadium.

Along with the coverage of the girls Grand Finals, next week I will look at the restructured Youth League for 2004 and discuss all the related issues. This topic was on everybody's lips over the past weekend and despite the fact that Soccer NSW had published the information on their web site, there was a significant amount of misinformation being spread by word of mouth. In next week's column we will attempt to squash all those nasty rumours and hopefully put them to rest for good.

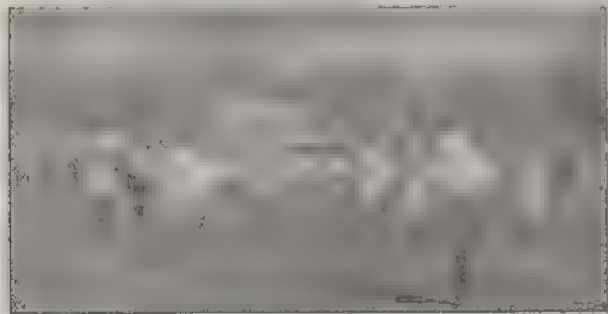
### Premier Youth League The Grand Finals

The springtime weather was absolutely perfect at the magnificently manicured Gabbie Stadium as the stage was set for the biggest games of the season. Blacktown City Soccer Club are to be congratulated for the outstanding effort they put into ensuring that the playing and spectator facilities were top class.

The canteens were well staffed throughout the day, the amenities were clean and tidy and the club went to the trouble of producing a fabulous 28-page match-day programme which was jointly sponsored by their own licenced club and the Good Guys at Blacktown.

Tension was in the air as players and spectators alike knew that they were in for a very special day to complete the season. I estimate that well over 5,000 people attended the ground over the course of the day, many of them having no direct connection with the competing teams, such is the interest in the elite level of junior soccer in this State.

As expected, on the playing surface we had thrills and spills, anguish and elation and shocks galore as four of the five Minor Premiers went down. Every match was closely contested, providing edge-of-the-seat action from beginning to end, and the sportsmanship on display was an absolute delight to behold.



Northern Spirit Under 12's celebrates their 1-0 victory over Blacktown City

**Grade 12.** After completing the season as undefeated Minor Premiers and winning the Major Semi Final to take their unbeaten run to twenty-seven matches, Blacktown City fell at the last hurdle to arch rivals, fourth-placed Northern Spirit. There was nothing between the teams as they went at each other from start to finish, putting on show a superb array of skills and determination.

Spirit gained the upper hand a minute before the break when Marco Sama struck the ball some fifteen metres out and it appeared to strike the leg of a Demons defender, looping over the head of the goalkeeper and finding the back of the net. Far from beaten, Blacktown came out full of fight as they went in search of an equaliser but it was not to be as the Spirit defence held firm.

It was a fabulous match with lots of goalmouth drama but in the end a single goal had settled the issue. The players from both teams had thoroughly deserved the enthusiastic applause they received from all areas of the ground.



Olympic Sharks Under 13's defeated Blacktown City 3-1 on penalties

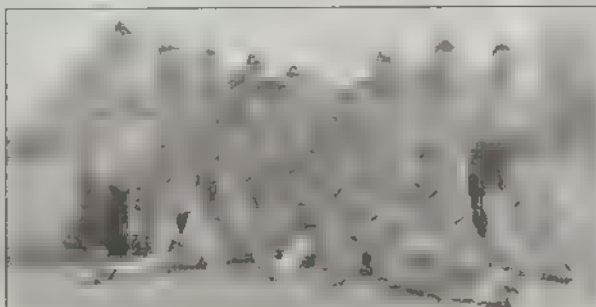
**Grade 13.** The Paul Costantini coached Blacktown City went into this match as Minor Premiers and they had beaten their opponents, Michael Soane's Olympic Sharks, three times this season, each time with a 1-0 scoreline.

Olympic had been the competition runners-up and it was clear from the outset they were not about to lie down and suffer another defeat. The Demons had the

Sharks on the back foot for most of the first period and they were rewarded when David Carr capitalised on a rare defensive lapse to slam the ball home and give his team the lead.

Olympic obviously benefited from some well chosen words of advice as they came out after the break looking far more determined as they went in search of an equaliser. It came in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute when Samuel Gordon sent a twenty metre scorchier into the roof of the net.

Despite the best efforts of both teams to conjure a winner, it didn't happen and so extra time was needed but even that was not enough to provide a goal that would separate these two fine teams. The dreaded penalty shootout was a bit of a fizzer from Blacktown's point of view as they could only net one from their first four attempts while Olympic scored three times out of their four to claim the title.



Marconi's Grand Final winning Under 14 team

**Grade 14.** As Minor Premiers, the David Dalfonso coached Marconi Stallions were entitled to go into this game as favourites but Abbas Saad's fifth-placed Olympic Sharks were not going to let that stand in their way.

In fact, there was nothing between the teams from go to whoa as they set about the task of trying to win this match.

The game flowed from end to end with plenty of goalmouth action to thrill the large crowd. Breaking the deadlock late in the first half, Daniel King pounced on a goalkeeping error from a Simon Shin free kick to give the Stallions the lead at the break.

The resumption of play saw more ebb-and-flow with Olympic seeking an equaliser and Marconi anxious to craft a goal to seal the game.

It was to be an equaliser from Dario Espejel who finished off one of the very fine moves for the Sharks and so extra time was needed to determine the winner.

Keeping the spectators guessing, there was to be no break in the pattern of play with both teams having chances to grab the result. In the end, mere moments before the final whistle, the decider came from the penalty spot after a Sharks' defender appeared to push a Marconi attacker. Jason Naidovski stepped up to convert and he gave his team a Golden Goal winner, the only Minor Premier to succeed on the day.

**Grade 15.** Marconi Stallions were the Minor Premiers but runners-up Blacktown City had gained a lot of respect for their unique brand of possession play and so the stage was set for a great game. From the outset it was clear that the Demons were determined to put on a display of quality football and they never wavered from their plan.

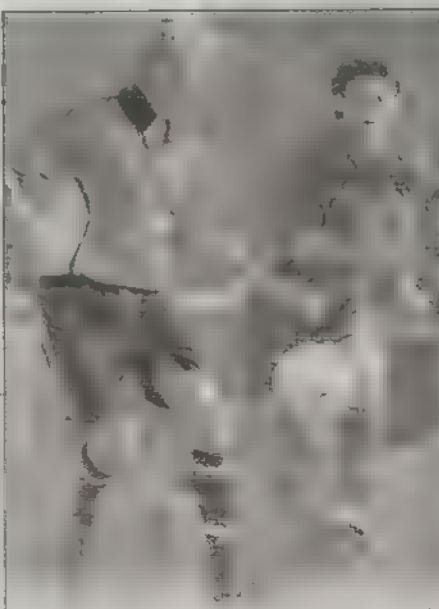
They had the Stallions chasing the ball for long periods and becoming somewhat frustrated when their own spells of possession were quickly cut short. Blacktown took a fifteenth lead when John Belme was on hand to finish off a very clever sequence of passes.

Marconi redoubled their efforts but it was not going to be their day as their best efforts were consistently cut off in their prime. Midway through the second stanza, Blacktown put the result beyond reach when Alvaro Malmuerca headed home from a cross from the right.

**Grade 17.** During the season there was nothing between the top four teams in this league and they all had a turn at the top.

In the final analysis, Newcastle United won the Minor Premiership by one point from Bankstown City Cubs and Wollongong Wolves (who were separated by goal difference) while Olympic Sharks were only a point further back.

Newcastle held a slight favouritism for this match after they had beaten the Wolves in the Major Semi Final.



Wollongong Wolves Under 17's beat Newcastle United 2-1 in the battle of the steel cities

However, it was a far more determined and committed Wollongong on this occasion and they put the Novocastrians on the back foot for long periods of the first half but they were unable to convert any of their many early chances.

Newcastle are a class act though and they made the most of their limited opportunities to attack when they took the lead midway through the first half with an acute angled shot from Igor Karaflovski finding the roof of the net. Within a minute, Wollongong had equalised through Jarryd Vinton who was on the end of a very fast raid to slot home a quality low shot.

The boys from the 'Gong continued to take the game to their highly-rated opponents and they were rewarded half-an-hour into the second half when Vinton pounced on a loose ball and thumped it into the back of the net for the winner.

### Super Youth League The Grand Finals

Having secured two days of Youth League Grand Finals at Christie Park, the Gladesville Hornsby committee clearly went to extraordinary lengths to ensure that the playing surface was in tip-top order and that the spectator areas were clean and comfortable for the large crowds expected. In fact, everything was perfect for the five big games to be played on Saturday.

Tension was high among players, officials and supporters alike and so was the anticipation of a day of high quality play. No-one was disappointed in the level of football produced on a day when there must be winners and losers.

**Grade 12.** Minor Premiers Manly Warringah Dolphins were clearly ready to play but runners-up Northern Tigers were not about to let them have things all their own way. In the end of this gripping encounter the Dolphins prevailed 3-1 with their goals being provided by Mitchell Austin, Max Granville and Daniel Hepworth while D. Cain responded for the Tigers.

**Grade 13.** The Mark Williams coached Macarthur Rams had finished in third place and they had knocked off Peter Daghis' second-placed Nepean in the Preliminary Semi Final but the red-and-whites had a match plan designed to prove that they were in fact the better team.

It certainly worked because they pulled a rabbit out of a hat to win by a convincing 3-0 thanks to strikes from Jamie Farrugia (2) and Justin Cavanagh.

**Grade 14.** What a game this one proved to be. Fourth-placed Eastern Suburbs went into this game against Major Premiers Nepean showing that they were no easy targets.

The kept Scott Quarmby's competition winners at bay for a long period and even took the lead through a Kim with fifteen minutes to go. That shook Nepean and they promptly rolled up their sleeves to find an equaliser from Robert Matheson seven minutes later before finally grabbing the result with a goal from Mahmoud Atwa deep into time added on.

**Grade 15.** Manly Warringah Dolphins finished the competition in third spot, thirteen points ahead of fifth-placed Hills United, and so they were probably entitled to be the favourites for this one. That proved to be the case and they shaded their opponents by a single goal from S. Fellows.

**Grade 17.** The battle between Fairfield Bulls and Northern Tigers, third and fourth respectively on the final table, was always going to be an interesting one. The Bulls had beaten the Tigers twice (both times 2-1) but this was not thought to be a certainty for the boys from Fairfield. Although they dominated for much of the game they could only find the back of the net once, through Vedran Moric, and they allowed A. Bryan to score for the Tigers. Extra time was required and it was then that the Bulls made the breakthrough with a Golden Goal from Goran Ljuboja.

### Division One Youth League The Grand Finals

Somehow, the hard working committee from Gladesville Hornsby had made Christie Park look as though it had not seen a game for a week.

Overnight they had ensured that everything was bright and sparkling and that the pitch was in good condition for the important games to be played on the day.

The matches had all the passion and commitment seen in the other two divisions on Saturday and the quality of the play was there for all to see.

As is usual on such days, there were moments of celebration and an equal amount of despair but the sportsmanship shown by the winners and the losers alike was an absolute delight to observe.

**Grade 12.** The match-up of Minor Premiers Schofields Scorpions and third-placed Granville was always going to be interesting and we were treated to a very good game indeed.

Granville started strongly, throwing everything at the Scorpions and they were rewarded with a 9<sup>th</sup> minute goal from Yousef El-Hallak who finished off a good move with a low shot to the bottom corner of the goal.

Buoyed by the confidence that goal provided, Granville continued to apply pressure but could not come up with another one.

Schofields clawed their way back into the game and for a while they looked certain to find an equaliser by it was not going to be and so the competition winners were rolled.



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**Grade 13.** Minor Premiers Canterbury Bankstown were entitled to enter this game as the favourites as they had finished thirteen points ahead of Ryde City on the table and they had beaten them twice in the competition.

In fact, Canterbury Bankstown started like a house on fire with a 16<sup>th</sup> minute goal from Ojaniyi Olayinka and they went further ahead seven minutes later when the same player found the net. Fifteen minutes into the second stanza David Krstevski made it 3-0 and five minutes later it was 4-0 after an Adrian Pandolfa volley had found the mark. Ryde finally made it onto the score sheet in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute when Matt Righton slammed one in and then two minutes from time Ryde added a second when Stefanion Zelewski converted from the penalty spot.

**Grade 14.** Schofields Scorpions were the Minor Premiers and they knew that they were in for a nipper of a game against second-placed Canterbury Bankstown. In fact, Canterbury Bankstown got off to the very best of starts with a superb goal two minutes after the start. However, Schofields were not going to settle for that and they began to make some inroads of their own.

They were rewarded when Mitchell Coope provided them with an equaliser. The second half saw both teams have their chances but there was no further scoring and so extra time was needed. Schofields dominated proceedings and they got their just desserts with a fabulous Golden Goal from Harry Tsaharlis for a well deserved win.

**Grade 15.** There was not much to separate Minor Premiers Dulwich Hill and runners-up Mt Pritchard going into this game so it was destined to be a tight one. Dulwich Hill began on a very positive note when Ahmed Tahan scored in the very first minute with a fantastic volley. The Mounties shrugged off that set-back and went at their opponents with relish but they simply could not crack the determined Dulwich Hill defences nor find a way past their goalkeeper who was having a brilliant game. Dulwich Hill also had their chances but Mt Pritchard's defence was equally determined and would not buckle. In the end, that single early goal decided a very hard fought match.

**Grade 17.** The best two teams in the competition met in the decider as Stanmore Hawks were the Minor Premiers and Dulwich Hill were the runners-up. There had been nothing between the teams all season so it was evident that something special would be required to break the stalemate. What we saw was a fascinating tactical battle from beginning to end, with both teams striving to find a way past the other. As the time ticked away the competitive spirit of adventure shown by both teams added to the drama of the match. Just when it looked as though extra time would be needed, Ahmed Alkadam came up with a brilliant volley to give the result to Dulwich Hill with just ninety seconds remaining on the clock.

## S.S.I. Girls Youth League - The Preliminary Finals

The games to decide the second teams to enter next week's Grand Finals were played at Marconi Stadium on Sunday with top quality play being the order of the day. If you have not yet watched Girls Youth League, you have really missed something special so you had better take the opportunity to see the very best of them in action this weekend.

**Grade 12.** Second-placed Manly Warringah Dolphins were up against third-placed Nepean for the opportunity to play Macarthur Rams. This was sure to be a close encounter as only one point had divided them on the final table and both competition games had ended in draws. Both teams had outstanding attacking records and the tightest of defences so it was always likely to be decided by some individual brilliance or a touch of luck. On this occasion, it was the Dolphins who gained the upper hand with a 1-0 result.

**Grade 14.** Manly Warringah Dolphins were the runners-up in this competition and Macarthur Rams finished in fourth spot. They had finished eight points apart on the table and they had won a game apiece from their in-competition clashes. Both teams had scored a lot of goals but the Dolphins had the better defensive record by far. On Sunday, the Dolphins took control of the game to post a 3-1 victory. They will now play Minor Premiers Olympic Sharks.

## YOUTH LEAGUE FORMAT FOR 2004

### PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

Blacktown City Demons  
Olympic Sharks  
Marconi Stallions  
Parramatta Eagles  
Northern Spirit  
Newcastle United  
Central Coast  
Sydney United  
Bankstown City Lions  
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt  
Sutherland Sharks  
Macarthur Rams  
Wollongong Wolves  
AC United

### SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Penrith Nepean United  
Southern Branch  
Manly Warringah  
Northern Tigers  
Fairfield Bulls  
Hills United  
St George  
Fraser Park/Canterbury  
Hajduk Wanderers  
Bonnyrigg White Eagles  
Schofields Scorpions  
Parramatta Star

### FIRST DIVISION

(Inter-District)  
Youth League

Sydney University Eastern Lions  
Wollongong United  
Dulwich Hill  
Stanmore Hawks  
Rockdale City Suns  
Mt Druitt Town Rangers  
Hurstville City  
Bathurst '75/Western  
Belmore Hercules  
Camden Tigers  
Ryde City  
Granville Rage

**Grade 16.** Marconi Stallions were the runners-up this season while North West Sydney Koalas were ten points behind them in fourth place. Marconi went into the game with a slightly better attacking record and the defences were about even.

At the end of normal time the teams were locked together at 1-1 but then the Koalas got the result with a Golden Goal in extra time. They have moved into the Grand Final where they will meet the Minor Premiers, Southern Branch.

## Grand Finals Draw At Marconi Stadium on Sunday

**Grade 12**  
Macarthur Rams  
v  
Manly Warringah Dolphins  
10:00am

**Grade 14**  
Olympic Sharks  
v  
Manly Warringah Dolphins  
11:30am

**Grade 16**  
Southern Branch  
v  
North West Sydney Koalas  
1:30pm



Winners are grinners: Wollongong Wolves 17's just after their win over Newcastle

## Champion of Champions

(Round One Champion of Champions continued from last week)

77	14/09/2003	Orange	0	Southern Districts	3	15	Jack Brabham Park 3	97	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	5	Eastern Suburbs	4	16	Ayresbury Park
78	14/09/2003	South West Slopes	1	Blacktown	4	15	Mitchell Park 2	98	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	1	Granville	2	16	Neilson Park 1
79	14/09/2003	Mitchell	1	Manly Warringah	2	15	Proctor Park 3	101	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	2	Ku.Ring.Gai	10	16	South Nowra S.F. 1
80	14/09/2003	Central Coast	7P	Canterbury	6P	15	Ron Routley Oval 2	102	14/09/2003	Wagga Wagga	1	Macarthur	0	16	Gissing Oval
82	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	5	Eastern Suburbs	0	15	McLean Street, Oval 2	133	14/09/2003	Southern Tablelands	2	Gladesville Hornsby	0	21	Cookbundoon Pk
83	14/09/2003	Far North Coast	3	Granville	2	15	Neilson Park 2	166	14/09/2003	Orange	3P	Southern Districts	4P	14W	Jack Brabham Park 3
84	14/09/2003	Southern Tablelands	0	Gladesville Hornsby	4	15	Cookbundoon Pk	179	14/09/2003	Orange	2	Southern Districts	1	16W	Jack Brabham Park 3
86	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	Ku Ring Gai			15	South Nowra S.F. 2	196	14/09/2003	Central Coast	9	Canterbury	2	AAW	Ron Routley Oval 2
88	14/09/2003	Dubbo	1	Nepean	6	15	Lady Cutler Res. 3	197	14/09/2003	Highlands	1	Sutherland	5	AAW	Yerrimbool Oval 2
92	14/09/2003	Orange	2	Southern Districts	1	16	Jack Brabham Park 3	198	14/09/2003	Holiday Coast	2	Eastern Suburbs	0	AAW	Ayresbury Park
94	14/09/2003	Mitchell	1	Manly Warringah	1	16	Proctor Park 1	200	14/09/2003	Southern Tablelands	0	Nth West Women	10	AAW	Cookbundoon Pk
95	14/09/2003	Central Coast	1	Canterbury	2	16	Blair Park	201	14/09/2003	Shoalhaven	3	Ku.Ring.Gai	2	AAW	South Nowra S.F. 3
								202	14/09/2003	Wagga Wagga	5	Macarthur	0	AAW	Gissing Oval
								203	14/09/2003	Dubbo	3	Nepean	1	AAW	Lady Cutler Res. 2



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## NSW JUNIOR TEAMS

FOR NATIONAL TALENT IDENTIFICATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

### UNDER 15 SQUADS

#### New South Wales Country

1. Tony Kaye
2. Daniel Quarisa
3. Tim Gater
4. Daniel Mill
5. Jade Hadfield
6. James Alcorn
7. Nathan Burns
8. Corey Ryan
9. Brent Farnsworth
10. Cory Anderson
11. Mark Butler
12. John Holden
13. Kade Dixon
14. Jason Ryan
15. Rohan Wilson
16. Daniel Collison

**Coach:** Ray Tweedie  
**Manager:** Bryson Rees

### UNDER 16 SQUADS

#### New South Wales Country

1. Brendan Boney
2. Mitchell Woodward
3. Sean Pye
4. Jeffrey Seagrove
5. Dustin Patten
6. Jordan Hale
7. Thomas Johnson
8. Aaron Watterson
9. Decha Saisanid
10. Michael Andrews
11. Blake Coates
12. Adam Small
13. Matthew Costello
14. Mitchell Long
15. Harnish Fasan
16. Kyle Lavendar

**Coach:** Richard Evans  
**Manager:** Stuart Peden

#### New South Wales Metropolitan

1. Nicholas Andrianakos
2. Andrew Albazi
3. Christopher Baronian
4. Wade Oostendorp
5. Hussein Raahid
6. Dusan Klisic
7. David D'Apuzzo
8. Tayfun Buyukcopru
9. Daniel Miller
10. Brendan Maroney
11. Adam Biddle
12. Scott Jamieson
13. Ben Vidaic
14. William Thom
15. James Lawrence
16. Daniel Lima

**Coach:** Glenn Fontana  
**Manager:** Paul Constantini

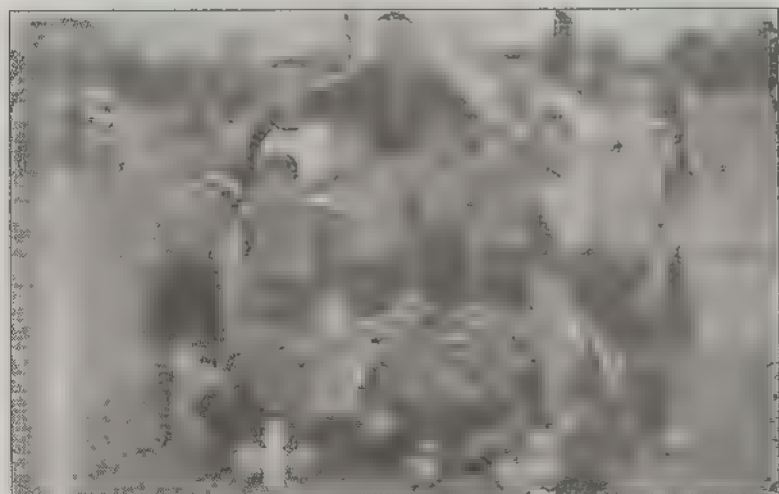
#### New South Wales Metropolitan

1. Tomislav Romic
2. Jason Kochou
3. Stephen Kayes
4. Ricky Perinich
5. Chris Nunes
6. Breagan O'Connor
7. Tarek Elrich
8. Bruce Djite
9. Michael Yarnold
10. Bradley Porter
11. Christian Sencion
12. Bradley Ryan
13. Matthew Smith
14. Benjamin Gough
15. Karouna Michael
16. Daniel Holmes

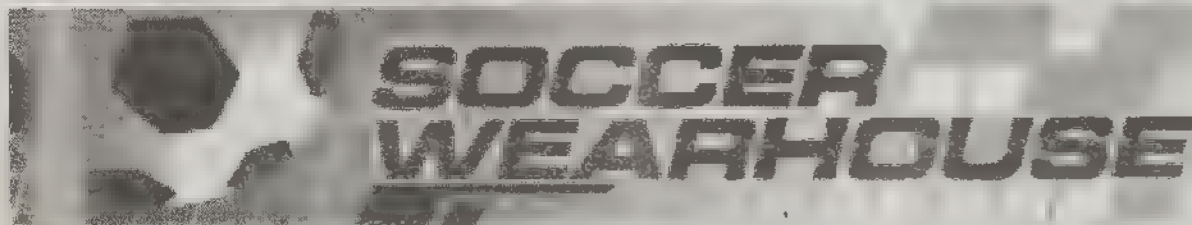
**Coach:** Emanuel Spanoudakis  
**Manager:** Pat Marando

## CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Bankstown	0	Southern Districts	7	10
Blacktown	0	Manly Warringah	1	10
Canterbury	0	Sutherland	1	10
Eastern Suburbs	0	Granville	4	10
Gladesville Hornsby	0	Illawarra	1	10
Ku.Ring.Gai	2	Macarthur	3	10
St.George	4	Albury Wodonga	1	10
Bankstown	1	Southern Districts	7	11
Blacktown	2P	Manly Warringah	4P	11
Canterbury	4P	Sutherland	5P	11
Holiday Coast	0	Far North Coast	2	11
Gladesville Hornsby	0	Illawarra	1	11
Ku.Ring.Gai	3P	Macarthur	1P	11
St.George	3	Albury Wodonga	4	11
Bankstown	0	Southern Districts	2	12
South West Slopes	0	Manly Warringah	4	12
Canterbury	2	Sutherland	0	12
Eastern Suburbs	1	Far North Coast	0	12
Gladesville Hornsby	1	Illawarra	3	12
Ku.Ring.Gai	3	Macarthur	1	12
St.George	2	Albury Wodonga	1	12
Bankstown	0	Southern Districts	2	13
Blacktown	1	Mitchell	2	13
Canterbury	0	Sutherland	1	13
Eastern Suburbs	2	Far North Coast	5	13
Gladesville Hornsby	2	Griffith	1	13
Ku.Ring.Gai	1	Macarthur	0	13
St.George	2	Albury Wodonga	0	13
Bankstown	0	Southern Districts	2	14
Blacktown	1	Mitchell	3	14
Canterbury	2	Highlands	1	14
Eastern Suburbs	1	Granville	2	14
Gladesville Hornsby	3	Illawarra	2	14
Ku.Ring.Gai	7P	Macarthur	8P	14
St.George	2	Albury Wodonga	1	14
Bankstown	0	Southern Districts	1	15
Blacktown	2	Manly Warringah	0	15
Central Coast	2	Sutherland	3	15
Holiday Coast	2	Far North Coast	0	15
Gladesville Hornsby	3	Illawarra	6	15
Ku.Ring.Gai	1	Macarthur	7	15
St.George	2	Albury Wodonga	1	15
Bankstown	3	Orange	0	16
Blacktown	0	Manly Warringah	2	16
Canterbury	2P	Sutherland	5P	16
Holiday Coast	1	Granville	2	16
Southern Tablelands	0	Illawarra	1	16
Ku.Ring.Gai	3	Wagga Wagga	0	16
Bankstown	4P	Southern Districts	3P	17
Shoalhaven	0	Macarthur	2	17
St.George	0	Albury Wodonga	2	17
Bankstown	0	Southern Districts	4	18
Blacktown	0	Manly Warringah	6	18
Central Coast	0	Sutherland	1	18
Gladesville Hornsby	2	Illawarra	3	18
Ku.Ring.Gai	1	Macarthur	2	18
Bankstown	2	Southern Districts	1	14W
Central Coast	2	Sutherland	1	14W
BYE		Far North Coast		14W
Nth West Women	3	Illawarra	0	14W
Shoalhaven	3P	Macarthur	0P	14W
Bankstown	2	Orange	1	16W
Blacktown	0	Manly Warringah	4	16W
Canterbury	1	Sutherland	5	16W
Eastern Suburbs	0	Granville	6	16W
Nth West Women	1	Illawarra	4	16W
Shoalhaven	2	Macarthur	0	16W
Bankstown	5P	Southern Districts	6P	AA
South West Slopes	0	Manly Warringah	2	AA
Central Coast	0	Sutherland	3	AA
Holiday Coast	4	Granville	1	AA
Shoalhaven	2	Macarthur	1	AA
St.George	1	Sydney Amateur Lge	5	AA
Bankstown	0	Southern Districts	4	AAW
Blacktown	0	Manly Warringah	5	AAW
Central Coast	4	Sutherland	1	AAW
Holiday Coast	6P	Granville	5P	AAW
Shoalhaven	6P	Wagga Wagga	5P	AAW
St.George	3	Albury Wodonga	0	AAW
Bankstown	1	Southern Districts	0	O35
Blacktown	1	Manly Warringah	12	O35
Canterbury	0	Sutherland	5	O35
Eastern Suburbs	3P	Granville	1P	O35
Ku.Ring.Gai	1	Macarthur	0	O35
St.George	2	Sydney Amateur Lge	3	O35



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established a  
formidable  
winning  
record in the  
St George  
Junior  
Association  
competition



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# ITALIAN SERIE A

## ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

What a fantastic start for all four Italian teams in the opening round of the Champions League last week. Four matches and four victories is certainly a wonderful achievement.

For Inter it was an amazing turnaround in form. After some very close encounters in the Serie A, the team, without Christian Vieri, completely outplayed Arsenal 3-0.

The Londoners have usually provided Italian teams with a few headaches in recent years. However, there was no such problem for Inter this time around.

They did all the damage in the first half and their Highbury crowd at the end of the match gave the Gunners a hostile send-off.

Thierry Henry, arguably one of the most reliable players in the world, even missed a penalty thanks to a brilliant save by keeper Francesco Toldo.

Juventus, finalists last season, had a 2-1 home win over Galatasaray but they were not that convincing. After an impressive beginning to the match, it was the ever-reliable Alessandro Del Piero who provided the inspiration for Juventus.

Galatasaray, as former UEFA Cup winners in recent years, are an awkward team to play most time. Furthermore, the improvements in standard in Turkish football in the last decade or so are really amazing.

There is no doubt that Filippo Inzaghi is the player of the moment in Italy. After his superb form recently for the national team, he was again decisive for AC Milan.

Against Ajax Amsterdam at the San Siro in Milan it was Inzaghi's only goal in the end that proved to be the difference between the two teams.

Ajax were arguably the better side in the first half but AC Milan, with Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Nesta and Andrey Shevchenko in great form, certainly got their measure in the second half.

However, it was Brazilian goalkeeper Dida that saved the day for the 'rossoneri' right at the end with a miraculous save. All up it was a positive start for AC Milan, the defending champions in this prestigious tournament.

Lazio got off to a good start with an away win over Besiktas in Istanbul. A first half goal to former Manchester Utd defender, Jaap Stam, and good saves from goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi characterised the first stanza of play.

Besiktas were fairly disorganised in the second half and Lazio's second goal was typical of the play.

After Besiktas hit the crossbar it was Lazio that raced up field and scored a counter-attacking goal from Stefano Fiore. Coach Roberto Mancini was obviously very pleased with Lazio's performance, as a win away in Istanbul is often very difficult to achieve.

Gianfranco Zola returned to Italian football after seven years in the English Premier League. He made his debut for his hometown side of Cagliari against Catania in the Serie B a couple of weeks ago.

Showing that he hasn't lost his magic touch, the 37-year-old maestro scored from a free kick. Later he said he was just glad to get on the park after two months of farcical behaviour from the Serie B clubs.

Zola left Parma for Chelsea seven years ago after a falling out with then Parma, and now AC Milan coach, Carlo Ancelotti. It was to be the end of his international career despite his excellent performances for Chelsea over the years.

Zola said he was glad to be back in Italy and that he had no regrets about what he had left behind in England. He said that he had learnt a lot about football from his days in London.

"Living in London was an extraordinary experience. I learnt so many things and I would like to pass on those values here that I acquired over there."

Zola also criticised the Serie B clubs for their behaviour in delaying the start of the season. "Since I returned to Italy I have heard all this talking. From a player's perspective I am very disappointed about what's going on. We are certainly not portraying a good image of ourselves overseas," he said.

Bravo Gianfranco!

A tale of two Australians in the recent Parma - Perugia encounter won 3-0 by the home side. Mark Bresciano, who is in superb form at the moment for club and country, opened the scoring after he latched on to a pass from Domenico Morfeo.

Standing in goal was big Zeljko Kalac but unfortunately for 'Spider' it wasn't his day as two more goals (one was a penalty) were conceded.

With Vince Grella at Empoli it won't be the last time that the three Australians in Italy come face to face this season.

Meanwhile Sydney listeners can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news.

## LAZIO .....2 PARMA .....3

Two goals from Australian Mark Bresciano, including an 89th-minute winner, gave Parma an impressive 3-2 victory against Lazio at the Olympic Stadium in Rome.

Parma took a shock lead after just 26 seconds when Hideotshi Nakata's cross found Bresciano who slotted home from the near penalty spot.

On 33 minutes defender Jaap Stam pulled Lazio level, rifling home a low angled free kick from just outside the box.

Seven minutes after the restart Brazilian Adriano scored an outstanding solo goal, holding off four defenders before turning and firing past Lazio keeper Matteo Sereni.

Substitute Simone Inzaghi headed home a Stefano Fiore corner on 78 minutes to bring Lazio level but a minute from time Bresciano blasted home a superb strike from 25 metres to send Lazio to their first defeat of the season.

## BOLOGNA .....2 UDINESE .....0

Bologna chalked up their first win of the season with a controversial victory over Udinese.

After a goalless first half, Argentinian Andres Guglielminetto turned in a Giuseppe Signori cross with his hand to give Bologna the lead on 63 minutes.

Five minutes into injury time Sam Dalla Bona converted a penalty to secure victory for Carlo Mazzone's side.

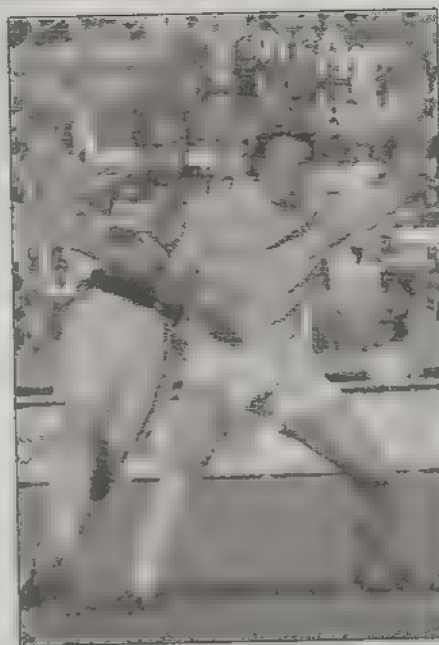
## BRESCIA .....4 REGGINA .....4

A remarkable game with eight goals but it will be the missed penalty from Roberto Baggio that Brescia fans will remember it for.

Former Inter midfielder Luigi Di Biagio headed Brescia into the lead after nine minutes. But the Calabrians levelled with a Shunsuke Nakamura penalty in the 22nd minute and took the lead through Emiliano Bonazzoli just before the break.

Six minutes after the restart, youngster Andrea Caracciolo's tap-in brought Brescia level and a minute later Antonio Filippini nodded home a Baggio cross to put Brescia 3-2 up.

Reggina equalised soon afterwards with a close-range shot from defender Andrea Sottil and after



Australian Mark Bresciano (left) scores for Parma in the opening minute of the Serie A match against Lazio in Rome.

the rare Baggio penalty miss, Nakamura gave the visitors the lead with a brilliant free kick on 72 minutes.

Four minutes from time Brescia defender Fabio Petrucci saved the day, turning in a last-gasp equaliser.

## INTER MILAN .....0 SAMPDORIA .....0

After an impressive and much hailed 3-0 victory over Arsenal in the Champions League, Inter started off well with a Marco Materazzi free kick and an Obafemi Martins effort just wide.

But while Inter had the pressure, Sampdoria produced the more dangerous chances, with Aimé Diana firing over the bar from a good position and Fabio Bazzani heading softly at Inter keeper Francesco Toldo from close range.

## JUVENTUS .....2 AS ROMA .....2

Juve were forced into an early change when Alessandro Del Piero limped off injured after just 14 minutes but it was his replacement, Marco Di Vaio, who fired Juve into the lead in the 21st minute after a David Trezeguet header was parried out by Roma keeper Ivan Pelizzoli.

Roma drew level just four minutes later through Romanian defender Cristian Chivu who floated a free-kick over the Juve wall for his second goal in as many games for the club.

Ten minutes before the break though Di Vaio restored Juve's advantage, sticking out a foot to poke a low free kick from Pavel Nedved past Pelizzoli.

French defender Jonathan Zebina grabbed the late equaliser with a rasping 25-metre shot which was helped by a slight deflection.

Totti should have won the game in injury time but his attempted chip was well anticipated by Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon.

## LECCE .....1 CHIEVO VERONA .....2

Lecce fell to their first home defeat in over a year. Chievo took the lead six minutes after the interval when Lecce goalkeeper Marco Amelia assumed a long sweeping Salvatore Lanna cross was going over the bar but it dipped into the top corner.

The home side levelled eight minutes later through impressive Uruguayan forward Ernesto Chevanton but Chievo restored their lead on 70 minutes when Federico Cossato slipped home a Giuseppe Sculli cross.

## PERUGIA .....1 AC MILAN .....1

AC Milan grabbed a 19th-minute lead thanks to a smart individual effort from midfielder Gennaro Gattuso, only for Perugia to pull level on the half-

hour mark when Greek striker Zivis Vryzas nodded home a cross from Brazilian Ze Maria.

After the break, the home side came close with efforts from English striker Jay Bothroyd and Ze Mana but Milan, after losing Filippo Inzaghi to injury and having midfielder Massimo Ambrosini sent off 20 minutes from time, held on for a share of the points.

## SIENA .....4 EMPOLI .....0

A hat-trick by former Italian striker Enrico Chiesa helped Siena to a 4-0 win over Empoli, their first ever Serie A victory.

Chiesa gave Siena the lead from the penalty spot in the 25th minute after Empoli defender Manuel Belleri shoved striker Nicola Ventola in the box.

Late in the first half Empoli pushed forward but a Siena counter-attack ended with Ventola being upended by keeper Luca Bucci, a foul that earned a red card for Bucci and another penalty for Chiesa, who coolly converted.

Chiesa claimed his hat-trick in the 61st minute before Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo completed the rout six minutes later.

## ANCONA .....1 MODENA .....1

The match between Ancona and Modena finished 1-1, second-half goals by French striker Diomansy Kamara and Brazilian defender Fabio Bilica earning both teams their first point of the season.

The game came alive after the interval and in the 54th minute Modena striker Kamara used his speed to swerve round keeper Alessio Scarpì and clip the ball into the net.

Briefly it looked as though the home side's fragile defence might fall to pieces but a poor clearance in the 63rd minute allowed Bilica to steal in and lash a shot past Modena keeper Marco Ballotta.

## FIXTURES

### Sunday 28th September

Chievo	v	Perugia
Empoli	v	Lazio
Milan	v	Lecce
Modena	v	Bologna
Parma	v	Siena
Reggina	v	Juventus
Roma	v	Ancona
Sampdoria	v	Brescia
Udinese	v	Inter

## SERIE A

Juventus 2 Roma 2, Ancona 1 Modena 1, Siena 4 Empoli 1, Bologna 2 Udinese 0, Brescia 4 Reggina 4, Inter Milan 0 Sampdoria 0, Lazio 2 Parma 3, Lecce 1 Chievo 2, Perugia 1 AC Milan 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Roma	3	2	1	0	9	3	7
2 Juventus	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
3 Parma	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
4 Milan	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
5 Internazionale	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
6 Lazio	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
7 Siena	3	1	1	1	6	3	4
8 Bologna	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
9 Chievo	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
10 Reggina	3	0	3	0	7	7	3
11 Lecce	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
12 Udinese	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
13 Sampdoria	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
14 Perugia	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
15 Brescia	3	0	2	1	5	10	2
16 Modena	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
17 Ancona	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
18 Empoli	3	0	1	2	2	10	1

## SERIE B

Albinoleffe 1 Fiorentina 0, Ascoli 2 Pescara 1, Cagliari 1 Treviso 1, Como 0 Torino 2, Genoa 0 Atalanta 3, Messina 1 Vicenza 1, Palermo 2 Ternana 1, Piacenza 1 Venezia 0, Salernitana 1 Catania 2, Triestina 4 Livorno 3, Verona 4 Bari 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Cagliari	4	2	1	1	7	2	7
2. Atalanta	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
3. Triestina	3	2	1	0	7	5	7
4. Ascoli	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
5. Palermo	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
6. Catania	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
7. Ternana	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
8. Torino	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
9. Verona	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
10. Piacenza	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
11. Bari	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
12. Livorno	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
13. Vicenza	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
14. Treviso	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
15. Avellino	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
16. Albinoleffe	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
17. Napoli	4	0	3	1	2	3	3
18. Pescara	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
19. Como	4	1	0	3	2	7	3
20. Fiorentina	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
21. Messina	3	0	2	1	2	5	2
22. Salernitana	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
23. Venezia	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
24. Genoa	3	0	0	3	0	5	0



# ENGLISH



Rund van Nistelrooy of Manchester United missed a penalty kick during second-half injury time and Arsenal regained first place in the Premier League with a 0-0 tie at Old Trafford.

Van Nistelrooy hit the crossbar, his third straight miss on a penalty kick. The penalty was awarded after Diego Forlan fell when chal-

lenged by Martin Keown. Keown taunted Van Nistelrooy following the shot, and players from both teams scuffled in midfield when the game ended.

Patrick Vieira was ejected after aiming a kick at Van Nistelrooy with nine minutes to go.

Star defender Sol Campbell did not play for Arsenal because of the death

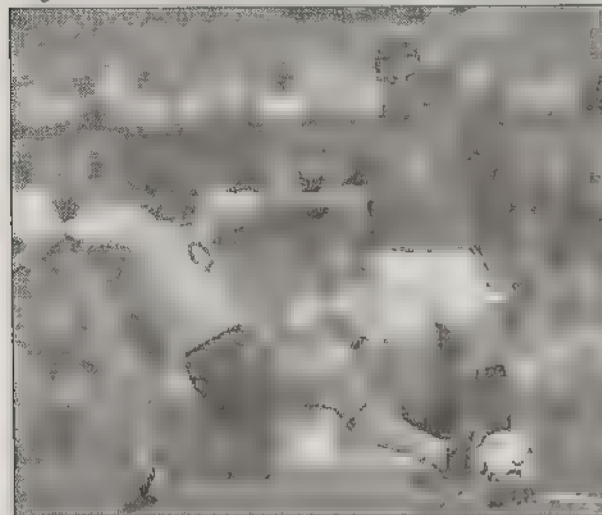
of his father.

Newly promoted Wolverhampton was shown a lesson in finishing as a star-studded Chelsea outfit cruised to a resounding 5-0 win at Molineux.

The away side began in ominous fashion, and John Terry had already had a goal disallowed before Chelsea took the lead in the 17th minute, when Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink created the space for Frank Lampard to score with a well-struck shot.

The same two players were also involved in Chelsea's second nine minutes before half-time, Lampard linking with Eidur Gudjohnsen, who in turn found Damien Duff, and his perfect ball gave Hasselbaink a straight forward finish.

The match was effectively over seven minutes after half-time, as Gudjohnsen set up Duff for his first Chelsea goal. Substitute Hernán



Arsenal's Ray Parlour (left) slides in on Manchester United's John O'Shea.



Chelsea's Frank Lampard is flying-high after scoring the opener in his side's 0-5 rout of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Crespo then scored his first for the club seven minutes past the hour, touching in Duff's low cross, and the Argentinian striker's second in added time lifted Chelsea one goal above Arsenal at the head of the standings.

Manchester City missed the chance to join Chelsea on 13 points as they were held 2-2 at Fulham. Nicolas Anelka's deflected effort 20 seconds into the second half put the visitors in front, but two goals in quick succession, from Steed Malbranque and Louis Saha, turned the match around, only for Paulo Wanchope to score a last-minute equaliser.

Two goals in nine minutes shortly before half-time, from Australian Lucas Neill and Andy Cole, put Blackburn Rovers in control away to Portsmouth and, although Arjan De Zeeuw pulled a goal back for the home side early in the second half, Blackburn held on for all three points.

Southampton were 3-1 winners at Tottenham Hotspur, with goals at the start and end of the first half from James Beattie putting the visitors in complete control. Former Sunderland striker Kevin Phillips added a third on the hour, before Frédéric Kanouté pulled one back for the home side two minutes later.

Liverpool earned their first

home win of the season by overcoming Leicester 2-1.

Striker Emile Heskey opened his goal account for the season after Michael Owen had put the hosts ahead from the penalty spot after Vladimir Smicer was fouled by Ben Thatcher.

Liverpool extended its unbeaten run to five games despite a consolation goal from Marcus Bent.

Birmingham City won 2-0 at Leeds, with Robbie Savage opening the scoring on 79 minutes after the visitors were awarded a retake from the spot.

Mikael Forssell rounded out the scoring for Birmingham six minutes from time.

Middlesbrough chalked up their first win of the season when an early strike from Joseph-Desire Job gave them a 1-0 win over Everton.

It was a welcome victory for manager Steve McLaren and his team after the club's worst start for 19 seasons saw them draw one and lose four of their opening five league games.

Aston Villa won 2-1 against Charlton Athletic thanks to goals from Alpay Ozalan and Floyd Samuel, with Kevin Lisbie scoring a late consolation, while Newcastle United drew 0-0 at home to Bolton Wanderers.

## PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester Utd 0 Arsenal 0, Liverpool 2 Leicester 1, Aston Villa 2 Charlton 1, Fulham 2 Manchester City 2, Leeds Utd 0 Birmingham City 2, Newcastle Utd 0 Bolton 0, Portsmouth 1 Blackburn 2, Tottenham 1 Southampton 3, Wolverhampton 0 Chelsea 5, Middlesbrough 1 Everton 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	6	4	2	0	11	3	14
Chelsea	5	4	1	0	15	6	13
Man Utd	6	4	1	1	9	2	13
Southampton	6	3	3	0	8	3	12
Man City	6	3	2	1	14	8	11
Liverpool	6	3	2	1	9	4	11
Birmingham	5	3	2	0	6	2	11
Portsmouth	6	2	3	1	9	5	9
Blackburn	6	2	2	2	14	12	8
Fulham	5	2	2	1	11	9	8
Aston Villa	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
Bolton	6	1	3	2	4	10	6
Leicester	6	1	2	3	9	9	5
Charlton	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
Everton	6	1	2	3	8	11	5
Leeds	6	1	2	3	6	12	5
Middlesbrough	6	1	1	4	5	12	4
Tottenham	6	1	1	4	5	12	4
Newcastle	5	0	3	2	5	7	3
Wolverhampton	6	0	1	5	1	17	1

## FIRST DIVISION

Burnley 4 Bradford 0, Crewe 3 Notts Forest 1, Crystal Palace 2 West Bromwich 2, Derby 1 Sunderland 1, Gillingham 2 West Ham 0, Ipswich 4 Wimbledon 1, Millwall 2 Walsall 1, Preston 4 Rotherham 1, Reading 1 Coventry 2, Sheffield Utd 5 Cardiff 3, Stoke 1 Norwich 1, Wigan 1 Watford 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	8	6	1	1	13	5	19
Sheff Utd	8	5	2	1	16	8	17
West Brom	8	5	1	2	14	9	16
West Ham	8	5	1	2	9	5	16
Nottm Forest	8	5	0	3	15	10	15
Millwall	9	4	3	2	13	10	15
Reading	8	4	2	2	3	7	14
Norwich	8	4	2	2	12	9	14
Sunderland	8	4	1	3	12	8	13
Crewe	8	4	1	3	9	9	13
Stoke	9	3	3	3	13	11	12
Burnley	9	4	0	5	13	15	12
Gillingham	9	3	3	3	10	15	12
Cardiff	8	3	2	3	16	12	11
Crystal Palace	8	3	2	3	12	11	11
Preston	8	3	1	4	12	11	10
Bradford	8	3	1	4	7	13	10
Coventry	7	2	2	3	11	13	8
Ipswich	8	2	2	4	10	12	8
Derby	8	2	2	4	8	14	8
Walsall	8	1	3	4	8	9	6
Rotherham	8	1	2	5	2	16	5
Watford	7	1	1	5	7	11	4
Wimbledon	8	1	0	7	10	22	3

## SECOND DIVISION

Barnsley 1 Swindon 1, Bournemouth 2 Rushden & Diamonds 1, Brentford 2 Hartlepool 1, Brighton 2 Sheff Wed 0, Bristol City 0 Port Vale 1, Grimsby 4 Chesterfield 0, Luton 1 QPR 1, Notts County 2 Tranmere 2, Peterborough 1 Colchester 2, Stockport 1 Blackpool 3, Wrexham 2 Plymouth 2, Wycombe 2 Oldham 5.

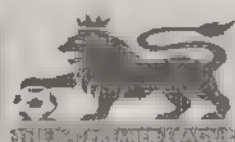
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Vale	9	6	1	2	15	12	19
Brighton	9	5	2	2	15	9	17
QPR	9	4	4	1	18	8	16
Swindon	9	4	4	1	17	11	16
Barnsley	9	4	4	1	12	8	16
Hartlepool	9	4	3	2	20	11	15
Bournemouth	9	4	3	2	11	9	15
Plymouth	9	3	5	1	19	15	14
Luton	9	4	2	3	14	12	14
Sheff Wed	9	4	2	3	14	13	14
Colchester	9	4	2	3	13	12	14
Bristol City	9	3	4	2	12	6	13
Rushden & Diamonds	9	4	1	4	16	15	13
Wrexham	8	3	2	3	7	8	11
Grimsby	9	3	2	4	15	18	11
Blackpool	8	3	2	3	12	16	11
Oldham	9	2	4	3	16	16	10
Brentford	9	3	1	5	7	14	10
Peterborough	9	2	3	4	12	12	9
Tranmere	9	1	5	3	9	11	8
Stockport	9	1	3	5	11	17	6
Notts County	9	1	3	5	6	18	6
Wycombe	9	1	2	6	11	20	5

## FIXTURES

### Saturday 20th September

Aston Villa	v	Charlton
Fulham	v	Man City
Leeds	v	Birmingham
Liverpool	v	Leicester
Man Utd	v	Arsenal
Middlesbrough	v	Everton
Newcastle	v	Bolton
Portsmouth	v	Blackburn
Tottenham	v	Southampton
Wolverhampton	v	Chelsea

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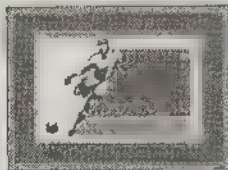
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# German Bundesliga



**V**FB Stuttgart moved to the top of the Bundesliga with a 1-0 win over Borussia Dortmund.

Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi headed the winner after the break for last season's runners-up who remain the only unbeaten side this season, but also yet to concede a goal.

Kuranyi's goal after 67 minutes put Stuttgart top of the Bundesliga for the first time since 1996.

Dortmund, now seventh, four points back, have a long injury list that includes defender Christoph Metzelder, midfielder Torsten Frings and striker Marcio Amoroso.

Bayer Leverkusen sit a point back in second after a spectacular 3-3 draw with 10-man Bayern Munich at the Olympic Stadium.

Champions Bayern, who missed a penalty in the first half and had Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto sent off after the interval, remain fifth and are now three points off the pace.

Midfielder Carsten Ramelow put Leverkusen ahead from the edge of the box after 10 minutes but Bayern responded in the 25th with a volley from close range by Dutch striker Roy Makaay, who has now scored four goals in his last three games.

Bayern playmaker Michael Ballack then missed a penalty, allowing his old club to go back in front with a superb header by Brazilian striker Franca.

Bayern fought back superbly with goals by Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz and Ballack to set up what looked like being a morale-boosting win, before Turkey midfielder Yildirim Basturk gave Leverkusen a share of the points with nine minutes remaining.

Werder Bremen moved up to third, level on points with Leverkusen, courtesy of a 2-1 win over TSV 1860 Munich.

A first-half penalty from Brazilian striker Ailton and a second-half winner from French playmaker Johan Micoud gave Werder Bremen all three points.

Hanover 96 moved up to sixth with their first home

victory of the season.

Thomas Christiansen exploited a blunder from the visitors' defence to put the northerners in the lead on 18 minutes. Fellow striker Mohammadou Idrissou wrapped it up with seven minutes remaining.

Schalke 04 warmed up for their UEFA Cup campaign in worrying fashion while promoted Freiburg extended a promising start with a 2-1 win.

Bosnia midfielder Zlatan Bajramovic headed the home side into the lead from a free kick on three minutes but the visitors levelled nine minutes later with a headed goal from Dario Rodriguez.

Georgian midfielder Levan Tsiklischvili hit the winner from a penalty in the 39th minute.

Cologne had fought back from two goals down however Wolfsburg's Argentine striker Diego Klimowicz gave the visitors victory with his fifth goal this season in the 72nd minute.

Hertha Berlin took the lead twice courtesy of Andreas Neundorff but were left chasing their first victory of the season after a 2-2 draw in Bochum.

Poland midfielder Thomas Zebel and Iran striker Vahid Hashemian scored the goals for Bochum.

SV Hamburg and Kaiserslautern eased the pressure on their respective managers Kurt Jara and Erik Gerets with vital wins.

Ten-man Hamburg came from behind to record a 2-1 win over Hansa Rostock at the AOL-Arena, while Kaiserslautern had a more comfortable time cruising to a 3-1 triumph over Eintracht Frankfurt at the Waldstadion.

Belgian coach Gerets had been issued a pre-match ultimatum to net all three points or face the axe

and his Kaiserslautern charges responded with a brace from Marian Hristov and a strike from German international Miroslav Klose sealing a 3-1 win.

Hamburg looked set for another defeat after falling behind to Martin Max's seventh strike of the season early on and then seeing captain Nico Koenig sent off on the hour mark.

However, substitute Bernardo Romeo levelled on 69 minutes and a late header from Bastian Reinhardt clinched Hamburg's first win of the campaign and moved the League Cup winners off bottom spot at the expense of Cologne.

Hanover 2 M'gladbach 0, Freiburg 2 Schalke 1, VfB Stuttgart 1 Dortmund 0, Werder Bremen 2 1860 Munich 1, Cologne 2 Wolfsburg 3, Bayern Munich 3 Bayer Leverkusen 3, VfL Bochum 2 Hertha Berlin 2, Eintracht Frankfurt 1 Kaiserslautern 3, Hamburg 2 Hansa Rostock 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Stuttgart	6	4	2	0	6	0	14
2 Leverkusen	6	4	1	1	14	6	13
3 Bremen	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
4 Wolfsburg	6	4	0	2	14	12	12
5 Bayern	6	3	2	1	15	10	11
6 Hannover	6	3	2	1	14	12	11
7 Dortmund	6	3	1	2	11	6	10
8 1860 München	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
9 Freiburg	6	2	3	1	11	10	9
10 Bochum	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
11 Schalke	6	1	3	2	7	10	6
12 Hansa	6	1	2	3	9	11	5
13 Kaiserslautern	6	2	1	3	7	8	4
14 Hertha	6	0	4	2	4	8	4
15 Eintracht	6	1	1	4	5	11	4
16 M'gladbach	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
17 Hamburg	6	1	1	4	4	13	4
18 Köln	6	1	0	5	6	10	3



Kevin Kuranyi celebrates the goal that sent VfB Stuttgart to the top of the German Bundesliga.

## FIXTURES

October 4th 2003

Hannover	vs	Schalke
E.Frankfurt	vs	B.Dortmund
Freiburg	vs	1860 Munich
VfB Stuttgart	vs	FC Cologne
Werder Bremen	vs	Wolfsburg
B.Leverkusen	vs	Hansa Rostock
B.Munich	vs	Hertha Berlin
Hamburg SV	vs	M'gladbach
Bochum	vs	Kaiserslautern



# Spanish Primera Liga



**D**eportivo La Coruna maintained their perfect start to the season with a 3-0 win over Albacete while Real Madrid kept up the pressure with a 3-1 win over Malaga.

Albacete, who had lost all three matches since their return to the top flight, started strongly against Depor at the Riazor, but the Galicians sparked into life after the break.

Early second-half goals from defender Noureddine Naybet and forward Albert Luque plus a trademark header from striker Walter Pandiani in injury time maintained Deportivo's 100 percent record.

Real Madrid had more problems beating goal-shy Malaga, but deadly finishing from Ronaldo, David Beckham and substitute Guti was enough to see them through.

Deportivo lead the table on a maximum 12 points, two ahead of Real Madrid and Valencia and four clear of a revitalised Real Sociedad, who claimed an



Barcelona forward Ronaldinho (right) falls after being blocked by Osasuna's Gorka Garcia (centre) during their match at the Nou Camp Stadium.

impressive 3-0 home win over Real Zaragoza.

Valencia continued its recent domination of Atletico Madrid after a 3-0 away win.

Goals from Vicente Rodriguez and Mista Ferrer (2) secured Valencia's fourth win in their last four starts at the Vicente Calderon.

Pablo Aimar was the inspiration behind Valencia's success and played a part in all three goals.

The victory means that Valencia have 10 points from their four games and remain unbeaten.

Barcelona were thwarted in their ambition of going to the top after being held to a 1-1 draw by

Osasuna, although the Catalans also remain unbeaten.

The visitors gained the initiative eight minutes after the break with Cesar Cruchaga making no mistake with a free header from a Francisco Punal corner.

Barca got back on level terms after 70 minutes when a Ronaldinho shot was going wide until it took a wicked deflection off the left leg of defender Jose Izquierdo.

Celta Vigo's poor start to the season continued as they blew a lead given them by Alexandr Mostovoi to be held to a 1-1 draw in Villarreal.

Mostovoi put the visitors in front after 70 minutes, but an own goal four minutes later by Eduardo Berizzo meant the points were shared.

Celta have yet to win after four matches this season.

Real Betis wasted a chance to move up the table after a 0-0 draw with Racing Santander.

A scoreless draw was the last thing they needed after a lecture from coach Victor Fernandez earlier in the week on how essential it was that they pick up as many points as possible at home.

Real Valladolid repaired some of the damage caused by last week's Real Madrid mauling by sinking Espanyol 3-1.

The home side lost 7-2 against the champions, but against Espanyol they were in front after just three minutes through Victor Zapata, and Sanchez Jesus doubled the lead six minutes later.

Espanyol managed to recover from the early blitz to pull one back through Kevin Bobson, but their cause was harmed when Alberto Lopo was sent off for a second bookable offence on the stroke of half-time.

Newly promoted Real Murcia failed to get their

breakthrough Primera Liga win but did manage to hold on for an honourable 2-2 draw against a revitalised Athletic Bilbao.

The stalemate, however, emphasised what a difference a week can make in the top flight.

Atletico Madrid 0 Valencia 3, Barcelona 1 Osasuna 1, Deportivo 3 Albacete 0, Mallorca 1 Sevilla 1, Valladolid 3 Espanyol 1, Villarreal 1 Celta Vigo 1, Real Betis 0 Racing Santander 0, Real Sociedad 3 Real Zaragoza 0, Real Murcia 2 Athletic Bilbao 2, Malaga 1 Real Madrid 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Deportivo	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
2 Real Madrid	4	3	1	0	13	5	10
3 Valencia	4	3	1	0	6	1	10
4 Real Sociedad	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
5 Barcelona	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
6 Osasuna	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
7 Valladolid	4	2	1	1	7	9	7
8 Villarreal	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
9 Betis	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
10 Sevilla	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
11 Racing	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
12 Athletic	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
13 Mallorca	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
14 Zaragoza	4	1	0	3	3	6	3
15 Murcia	4	0	3	1	4	7	3
16 Celta	4	0	3	1	3	5	3
17 Atletico	4	1	0	3	1	5	3
18 Espanyol	4	0	2	2	5	8	2
19 Malaga	4	0	1	3	1	5	1
20 Albacete	4	0	0	4	1	8	0

## FIXTURES

Sunday 28th September

Atletico	vs	Barcelona
Osasuna	vs	Deportivo
Albacete	vs	Mallorca
Sevilla	vs	Murcia
Athletic	vs	R Sociedad
Zaragoza	vs	Betis
Racing	vs	Villarreal
Celta	vs	Valladolid
Espanyol	vs	Malaga
Valencia	vs	R Madrid



## Dutch Eredivisie

Eredivisie champions PSV Eindhoven continued their impressive start to the season with a 3-1 win at Feyenoord.

Guus Hiddink's side took the lead through Mateja Kezman in the seventh minute with Thomas Buffel replying for the hosts in the 19th minute.

Kezman netted his second to put the visitors back in the lead in the 54th minute and Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink made sure of the win with a 73rd-minute strike.

Ajax Amsterdam slipped from the top after a shock 4-2 defeat to NAC Breda.

The hosts took an early lead through Nordin Boukhari in the seventh minute, with Johan Elminder putting them 3-0 ahead with goals in the 46th and 57th minutes.

The visitors grabbed two goals back in quick succession in the 70th and 72nd minutes through Victor Sikora and Zlatan Ibrahimovic respectively, but Stefano Seedorf cemented NAC's win with a last-minute strike.

Groningen battled back from a disastrous start to salvage a point in a 1-1 draw with Utrecht.

However, a 21st-minute

tained their unbeaten home record in the new season.

Bottom side Zwolle remained firmly stuck in the Eredivisie basement after crashing 2-1 to Willem II.

A last-gasp strike from Danny Mathijssen in the 89th minute earned the hosts the win just as embattled Zwolle looked like escaping with an unlikely draw after Georgi Hristov's 78th minute strike had cancelled out Dmitri Shoukov's goal two minutes before half-time.

Meanwhile, ADO Den Haag also sank deeper into the relegation mire with a 2-1 home defeat to RBC Roosendaal.

The hosts, in dire straits with only two points from four games, never looked like securing their first win of the season against a Roosendaal outfit whose teamwork belied their lowly position in the league.

RBC took the lead through Sammy Youssouf in the 31st minute, but ADO equalised four minutes into the second half through Peter Hofstede.

And the hosts looked like hanging on for their third draw until Robert Molenaar drilled home the winner in the 77th minute.

A dramatic late goal from substitute Kim Christensen earned FC Twente victory over RKC Waalwijk.

Christensen struck with just seven minutes of normal time remaining to steal the points.

AZ Alkmaar joined the Eredivisie pace-setters with an emphatic 3-1 victory over close rivals Heerenveen.

Crisis club Vitesse shared the spoils with visiting Roda JC in a 1-1 draw at the Gelredome Stadium.

Emile Mbamba put Edward Sturing's side in front two minutes before the half-hour mark.

Aruna Kone ensured Roda went away with a point when he replied for the visitors just twelve minutes later. Vitesse now move up one place to 16th in the Eredivisie.



## Greek Ethniki Katigoria

Panathinaikos failed to win an Ethniki Kategoria match for the first time this season as they were held to a 2-2 draw at AEK Athens.

Sotirios Kirgiakos gave Panathinaikos a 20th-minute lead, and Panagiotis Pyssas doubled their lead eight minutes later.

But AEK fought back,

in a thriller. The visitors went ahead through Deniz Baikara in the 14th minute and an own goal from Giorgos Koltsidas increased the advantage.

Nikos Papadopoulos, however, put his side back in the game with a direct free-kick soon after the interval and further efforts from Giannis Lazanas and Giorgos Kazantzis turned the match around.



Action shown between the derby match between Panathinaikos and AEK Athens.

pulling a goal back just a minute before half-time through Grigorios Georgatos and the same player equalised two minutes from the end.

In a typically fiery Athens derby, nine players went into the referee's book but there were no red cards.

Panathinaikos stay top though, a point clear of Olympiakos after four games, with AEK in third place.

Silva Giovanni scored the only goal three minutes before the break as Olympiakos recovered well from their defeat by Real Sociedad in the Champions League to sink Paniliakos 1-0.

Aris Thessaloniki, meanwhile, defeated Xanthi FC 3-2

Proodeftiki FC might have seen off Olympiakos last week but they could only manage a scoreless draw against PAOK Thessaloniki with Yiotis Engomitis and Sladjan Spasic missing several chances.

Iraklis secured their first away win of the season thanks to a 1-0 defeat of Ionikos. Cesari Kuharski's header was the only goal of a tight game.

Elsewhere, Egaleo defeated Akraitos FC 2-0 on their travels thanks to strikes from Anestis and Giorgos Barkoglou while OFI Crete convincingly defeated Halkidona 3-1. Kallithea GS and Panionios GS fought out a 2-2 draw.

Akratitos 0 Aegaleo 2, OFI Crete 3 Halkidona 1, Ionikos 0 Iraklis 1, PAOK Salonika 0 Proodeftiki 0, Olympiakos 1 Paniliakos 0, AEK Athens 2 Panathinaikos 2, Aris Salonika 3 Xanthi 2, Kallithea 2 Panionios 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Panathinaikos	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
2. AEK Athens	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
3. Olympiakos	3	2	0	1	9	1	6
4. PAOK Salonika	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
5. Iraklis	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
6. Panionios	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
7. Aris Salonika	3	1	1	1	3	1	4
8. Halkidona	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
9. Proodeftiki	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
10. Paniliakos	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
11. Aegaleo	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
12. Ionikos	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
13. Akraitos	3	1	0	2	2	9	3
14. Xanthi	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
15. Kallithea	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
16. OFI Crete	3	0	1	2	2	8	1



## Scottish Premier League

Rangers regained leadership of the Scottish Premier League from Old Firm rivals Celtic with a 4-0 victory at Hearts. The visitors extended their perfect league record to six games thanks to two goals each from Shota Arveladze and Peter Lovenkrands.

The home side ended the game with 10 men when goalkeeper Tepi Moilanen was forced off with a head injury. Moilanen had done well to keep Rangers out for most of the first 45 minutes but was given no hope on the stroke of half-time when Arveladze slotted home with a rising drive.

Rangers took a firm grip on the game from the restart and it was just a matter of when the second goal would arrive. Lovenkrands, was the man who provided it in the 51st minute before Arveladze made it 3-0 in the 71st minute with the simplest of tap-ins after Moilanen had pulled off a fine save to deny Emerson.

Motherwell 3-0 following a demoralising mid-week loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

Celtic now have 16 points from six games. Larsson opened the scoring soon after the break after heading into the net on 47 minutes for his 207th goal for the club.

Larsson then slipped in Sutton for the second on 65 minutes before Malone came off the bench to curl home a scrumptious free kick for the third 20 minutes from time.

Dundee, who will finalise the signing of former Italy striker Fabrizio Ravanelli later today (Tuesday AET), secured their first home league win over Aberdeen for 15 years with goals from Tom Cowan and Nacho Novo.

Dundee United picked up their first win of the season with a 2-0 success at Partick Thistle.

Midfielder Charlie Miller scored twice to earn manager Ian McCall a huge sigh of relief.

Kilmarnock defender Sean



Nacho Novo: Scored the winner for Dundee in their first home win over Aberdeen for 15 years.

Hearts' misfortune continued right to the end when Moilanen was hurt in a collision with Egil Ostenstad which saw Lovenkrands net the loose ball to make it 4-0.

Celtic struck three times in 23 second-half minutes to beat

Hessey scored the first goal of his professional career on the way to a 2-1 win at Livingston.

Former Blackburn midfielder Lee Makel equalised for the home side before Kris Boyd struck the winner for the Rugby Park side.

Hearts 0 Rangers 4, Celtic 3 Motherwell 0, Dundee 2 Aberdeen 0, Dunfermline 0 Hibernian 0, Livingston 1 Kilmarnock 2, Partick Thistle 0 Dundee Utd 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Rangers	4	4	0	0	15	5	12
2 Celtic	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
3 Hearts	4	3	0	1	6	1	9
4 Dundee	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
5 Dunfermline	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
6 Hibernian	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
7 Motherwell	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
8 Kilmarnock	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
9 Livingston	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
10 Partick	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
11 Aberdeen	4	0	1	3	4	8	1
12 Dundee United	4	0	0	4	2	13	0



## French Ligue 1

**M**onaco went top of Ligue 1 thanks to a 2-1 win at Montpellier and Marseille's 1-0 defeat at Nantes.

Marseille, leaders at the start of play, appeared to be suffering from their Champions League mauling by Real Madrid and were sunk by a superb third-minute goal by Tahiti-born Marama Vahirua.

Monaco completed a great week thanks to goals by Emmanuel Adebayor and Ludovic Giuly.

Monaco have 16 points from seven

thrashed Bastia 4-1.

Cisse headed home the opener in the 24th minute before Alour Diarra equalised for Bastia.

Midfielder Yann Lachuer scored Auxerre's second with a left-foot shot and then crossed from a corner for Philippe Mexes to head the third.

Cisse smashed home his second from 20 metres after two defenders failed to clear the danger with an hour gone.

Strasbourg's exciting start to the season was brought to a halt at Sochaux in a 3-0 defeat.



Toulouse's Nicolas Dieuze (right) and Franck Signorino of Metz challenge for the ball.

games, Marseille 15 and Nice 14 after they beat Lille 2-0 on Saturday.

Olympique Lyon predictably proved too much for bottom side Le Mans, goals from new signing Giovane Elber at the beginning and end of the match earning the champions a 2-0 win.

Two goals from striker Abdelmalek Cherrad earned Nice a 2-0 home win over Lille, whose defence was to blame for both Cherrad's first half goals.

Goalkeeper Gregory Wimbee came to catch a looped header but was beaten by the 22-year-old striker who then profited from a defensive mix-up to hit a left-foot shot across the keeper into the far corner four minutes from the break for his second.

A depleted Paris St Germain claimed a morale-boosting 2-0 victory at Guingamp, a win that will restore the capital side's faith after their sloth-like start to the season.

Following the sending-off of new signing Branko Boskovic, PSG were forced to play with ten men after just a half hour of play but rebounded to score two goals in the last half hour.

It was against the run of play that PSG opened the scoring, with Pauleta supplying Fabrice Fioresi for the forward to send Le Mans the wrong way before slipping a right-footed shot home.

PSG sealed their win on 72 minutes after Pauleta converted a penalty.

France striker Djibril Cisse netted twice for Auxerre who

In the first half Brazilian striker Santos scored one goal, should have scored a couple more and set up Mickael Isabey for the opener as Strasbourg's defence capitulated.

The second half was more even but striker Mickael Pagis scored a third in the dying stages.

Toulouse beat Metz 1-0 to notch their first win of the season while Lens scored the only goal against Bordeaux who slipped towards the foot of the table.

Sochaux 3 Racing Strasbourg 0, RC Lens 1, Girondins Bordeaux 0, AC Ajaccio 1, Stade Rennes 0, AJ Auxerre 4 Bastia 1, En Avant Guingamp 0, Paris St Germain 2, Nice 2, Lille 0, Toulouse 1 Metz 0, Le Mans 0 Lyon 2, Montpellier 1 Monaco 2, Nantes 1 Marseille 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Monaco	7	5	1	1	13	7	16
2 Marseille	7	5	0	2	11	3	15
3 Nice	7	4	2	1	9	5	14
4 Sochaux	7	4	1	2	11	7	13
5 Nantes	7	4	1	2	8	4	13
6 Lens	7	4	1	2	5	5	13
7 Lyon	7	3	2	2	8	5	11
8 Lille	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
9 Auxerre	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
10 Strasbourg	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
11 PSG	7	3	1	3	9	9	10
12 Ajaccio	7	3	1	3	8	9	10
13 Bastia	7	3	1	3	8	10	10
14 Rennes	7	2	3	2	6	5	9
15 Metz	7	2	1	4	5	6	7
16 Bordeaux	7	2	1	4	6	8	7
17 Montpellier	7	2	1	4	7	10	7
18 Toulouse	7	1	2	4	3	9	5
19 Guingamp	7	1	1	5	5	12	4
20 Mans	7	0	2	5	1	13	2



## Belgium First Division

**A**nderlecht continued their perfect percent start to the Belgian league season with an easy 5-1 win against Westerlo but champions Club Brugge suffered a shock 3-2 defeat by Sint-Truiden.

Goals by Ivica Momar, Marc Hendriks, Dindane Aruna, Christian Wilhelmsson and Michal Zewlakow sent Anderlecht to their sixth win out of six.

Club Brugge are seven points behind Anderlecht, who have 18 points, after 38-year-old Danny Boffin scored a late winner for Sint-Truiden.

Buyens gave the home side a ninth minutes lead however the visitors equalised on the stroke of half-time when Andres Mendoza slotted home.

Brugge took their first lead of the day when Belgian international Gert Verheyen scored 14 minutes after the interval before Janssens equalised in the 74th minute and Boffin's winner.

Another big surprise was a 2-0 loss for Standard at promoted Cercle Brugge, Jbari and Arys both scoring in the second half. It was their second successive defeat after going down at home to Genk last week.

Lierse, coached by Emilio Ferrera, continued their impressive early form with a 2-1 win against Lokeren that moves them to fourth, level on 11 points with Club Brugge, Genk and Sint-Truiden.

Following a stalemate in the first half, Lierse needed just three minutes of the second half before breaking the deadlock as Stef Wils bagged a crucial goal.

The lead lasted 20 minutes before Lezon Doba equalised for the visitors. The game seemed headed for a draw before Marius Mitu broke the deadlock five minutes from time to secure all three points for Lierse.

Lokeren, who face English club Manchester City on Wednesday in the UEFA Cup, remain bottom of the table.

Charleroi scored their first goal of the season to earn a 1-1 draw at Ghent despite having three players dismissed.

Macquet scored the maiden goal in the 58th minute and the lead lasted until the 85th minute when De Brul scored for Ghent.

Lierse 2 Lokeren 1, Antwerp 0, Germinal Beerschot 4, Sint-Truiden 3, Club Brugge 2, Beveren 1, Heusden 0, Anderlecht 5, Westerlo 1, Genk 0, Mons 0, Cercle Brugge 2, Standard 0, La Louviere 1, Mouscron 1, Gent 1, Charleroi 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Anderlecht	6	6	0	0	21	3	18
2 Club Brugge	6	3	2	1	13	7	11
3 Genk	6	3	2	1	8	3	11
4 Lierse	6	3	2	1	7	4	11
5 Sint-Truiden	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
6 Standard	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
7 Germinal Beerschot	6	2	3	1	7	3	9
8 Mouscron	6	2	3	1	12	9	9
9 AA Gent	6	2	3	1	11	9	9
10 Cercle Brugge	6	2	2	2	3	6	8
11 Antwerp	6	2	1	3	4	12	7
12 La Louviere	6	1	4	1	6	5	7
13 Beveren	6	2	0	4	8	13	6
14 Westerlo	6	1	3	2	7	11	6
15 Charleroi	6	0	3	3	1	5	3
16 Mons	6	0	3	3	5	12	3



## FIFA WORLD RANKING

1 Brazil	834	1	0	1	0	51 Wales	558	50	-1	52	1
2 France	814	2	0	2	0	52 Côte d'Ivoire	555	59	7	64	12
3 Spain	762	2	-1	3	0	53 New Zealand	550	51	-2	49	-4
4 Argentina	754	5	1	5	1	54 Trinidad and Tobago	549	52	-2	47	-7
5 Netherlands	752	6	1	6	1	55 Slovakia	544	53	-2	55	0
6 Germany	745	4	-2	4	-2	55 Venezuela	544	63	8	69	14
7 Turkey	733	8	1	9	2	55 Austria	544	61	6	54	-1
8 England	727	7	-1	7	-1	58 Congo DR	541	65	7	65	7
9 United States	717	10	1	10	1	59 Iceland	538	70	11	58	-1
10 Czech Republic	712	13	3	15	5	59 Scotland	538	64	5	58	-1
11 Italy	711	12	1	13	2	61 Zimbabwe	536	55	-6	56	-5
11 Mexico	711	9	-2	8	-3	62 Estonia	534	61	-1	60	-2
13 Denmark	710	10	-3	12	-1	63 Cuba	532	56	-7	71	8
14 Ireland Republic	703	15	1	14	0	64 Iraq	531	56	-8	63	-11
15 Portugal	692	14	-1	11	-4	65 Thailand	529	59	-6	66	1
16 Cameroon	691	18	2	16	0	65 Guatemala	529	58	-7	78	13
17 Belgium	672	16	-1	17	0	67 Zambia	526	69	2	66	-1
18 Costa Rica	663	17	-1	21	3	68 Algeria	522	66	-2	68	0
18 Sweden	663	20	2	24	6	69 Ghana	513	67	-2	60	-9
20 Paraguay	657	19	-1	18	-2	70 Chile	510	73	3	84	14
21 Romania	652	27	6	24	3	70 China PR	510	68	-2	63	-7
22 Colombia	651	39	17	37	15	72 Burkina Faso	508	83	11	75	3
23 Norway	648	24	1	26	3	73 Mali	505	74	1	73	0
24 Japan	643	23	-1	22	-2	74 Qatar	499	71	-3	62	-12
24 Korea Republic	643	21	-3	20	-4	75 Bosnia-Herzegovina	495	72	-3	87	12
26 Croatia	640	26	0	32	6	76 Kenya	493	78	2	80	4
27 Serbia and Montenegro	636	22	-5	19	-8	77 Jordan	489	75	-2	77	0
28 Senegal	633	29	1	27	-1	78 Canada	482	77	-1	70	-8
29 Slovenia	628	36	7	36	7	79 Latvia	481	79	0	78	-1
30 Russia	627	25	-5	22	-8	80 Peru	480	81	1	82	2
31 Nigeria	626	32	1	29	-2	81 Angola	479	86	5	76	-5
31 Uruguay	626	28	-3	28	-3	82 Belarus	478	76	-6	74	-8
33 South Africa	619	31	-2	30	-3	83 Cyprus	474	88	5	80	-3
33 Greece	619	45	12	48	15	84 Haiti	473	80	-4	71	-13
33 Poland	619	29	-4	33	0	85 El Salvador	469	82	-3	94	9
36 Ecuador	616	33	-3	31	-5	86 Togo	468	92	6	85	-1
37 Morocco	613	38	1	35	-2	86 Georgia	468	84	-2	90	4
38 Bulgaria	612	35	-3	42	4	88 Albania	466	89	1	93	5
39 Egypt	608	44	5	39	0	89 Indonesia	465	84	-5	110	21
40 Switzerland	605	43	3	44	4	90 Macedonia FYR	461	93	3	85	-5
41 Iran	600	34	-7	33	-8	91 Kuwait	455	87	-4	83	-8
42 Honduras	596	37	-5	40	-2	91 Libya	455	97	6	104	13
42 Tunisia	596	40	-2	41	-1	93 Syria	445	90	-3	91	-2
44 Israel	593	40	-4	46	2	94 Barbados	442	94	0	99	5
45 Finland	585	45	0	43	-2	95 United Arab Emirates	439	90	-5	89	-6
46 Saudi Arabia	581	42	-4	38	-8	95 Vietnam SR	439	95	0	108	13
47 Ukraine	579	47	0	45	-2	95 Singapore	439	98	3	118	23
48 Jamaica	571	48	0	51	3	98 Liberia	438	96	-2	88	-10
49 Hungary	570	54	5	56	7	99 Lithuania	427	99	0	100	1
50 Australia	562	49	-1	50	0	100 Congo	423	100	0	97	-3

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